



PROBABLY THE **STRONGEST** IN THE UNIVERSE!

INVINCIBLE

44

\$2.99
\$3.20 CAN



Ryan

KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • CRABTREE

image® COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE™

ROBERT KIRKMAN

WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY

PENCILER, INKER

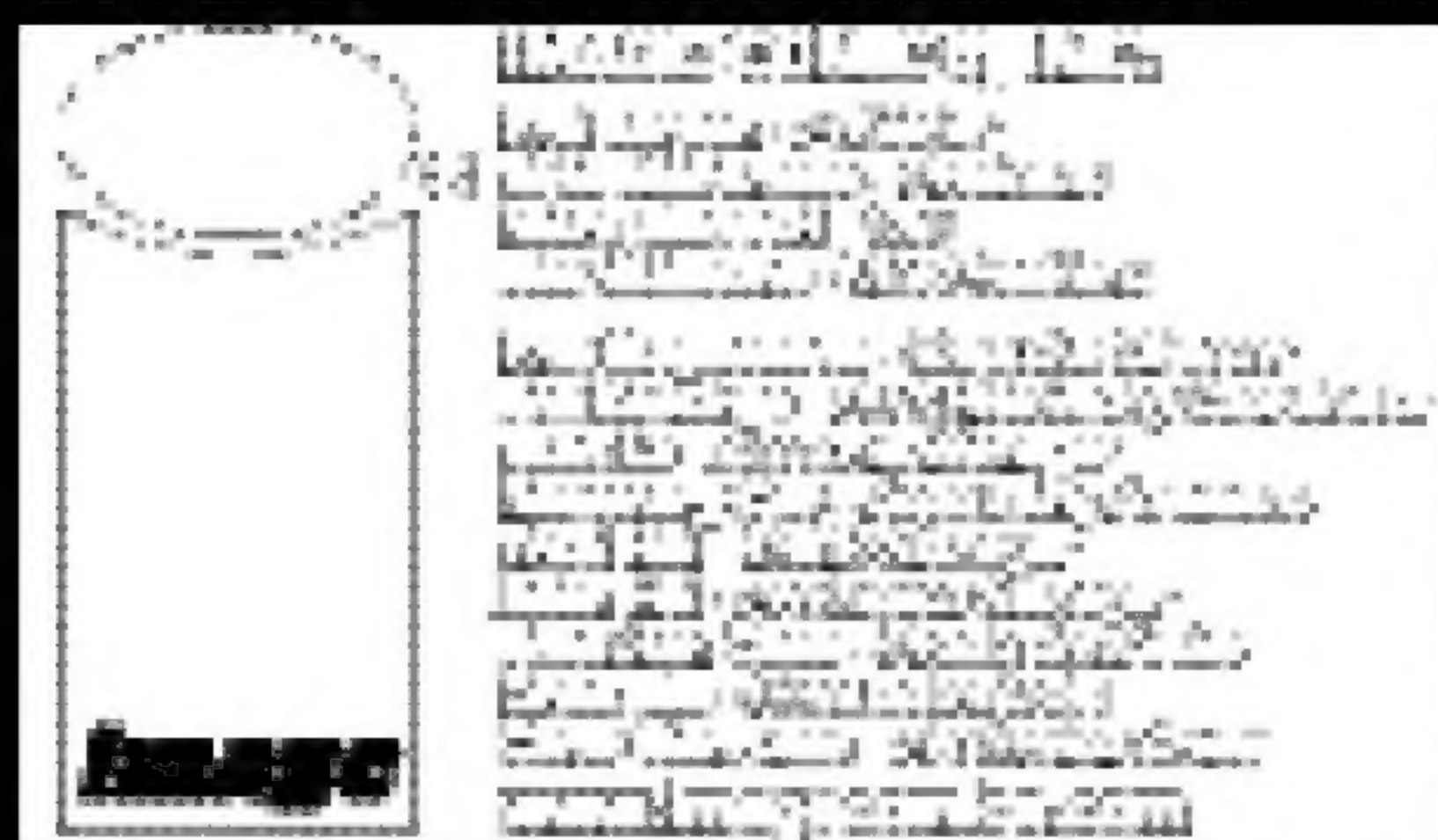
BILL CRABTREE

COLORIST

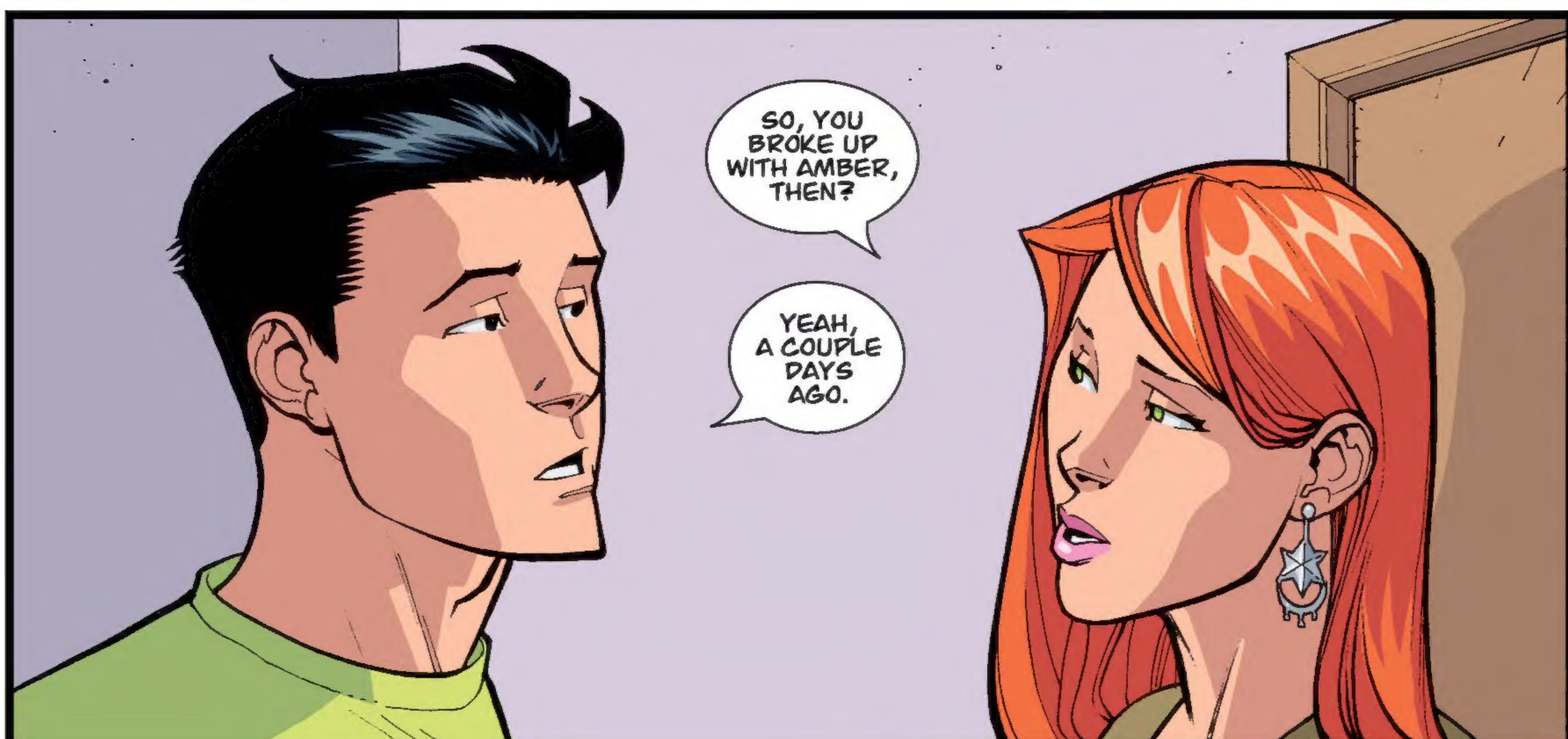
RUS WOOTON

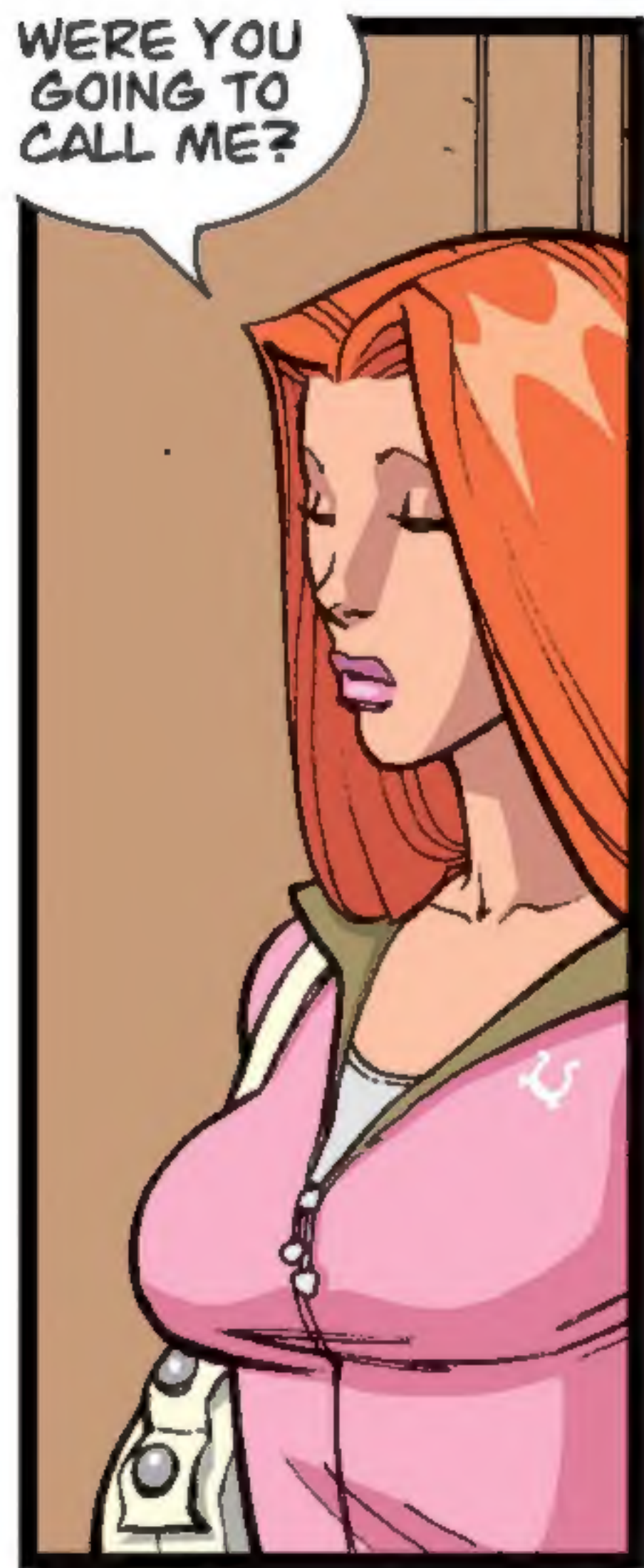
LETTERER

CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER



INVINCIBLE #44. July 2007. Published by Image Comics, Inc., Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2007 Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker. All rights reserved. INVINCIBLE™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker, unless otherwise noted. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. PRINTED IN CANADA.





WERE YOU GOING TO CALL ME?



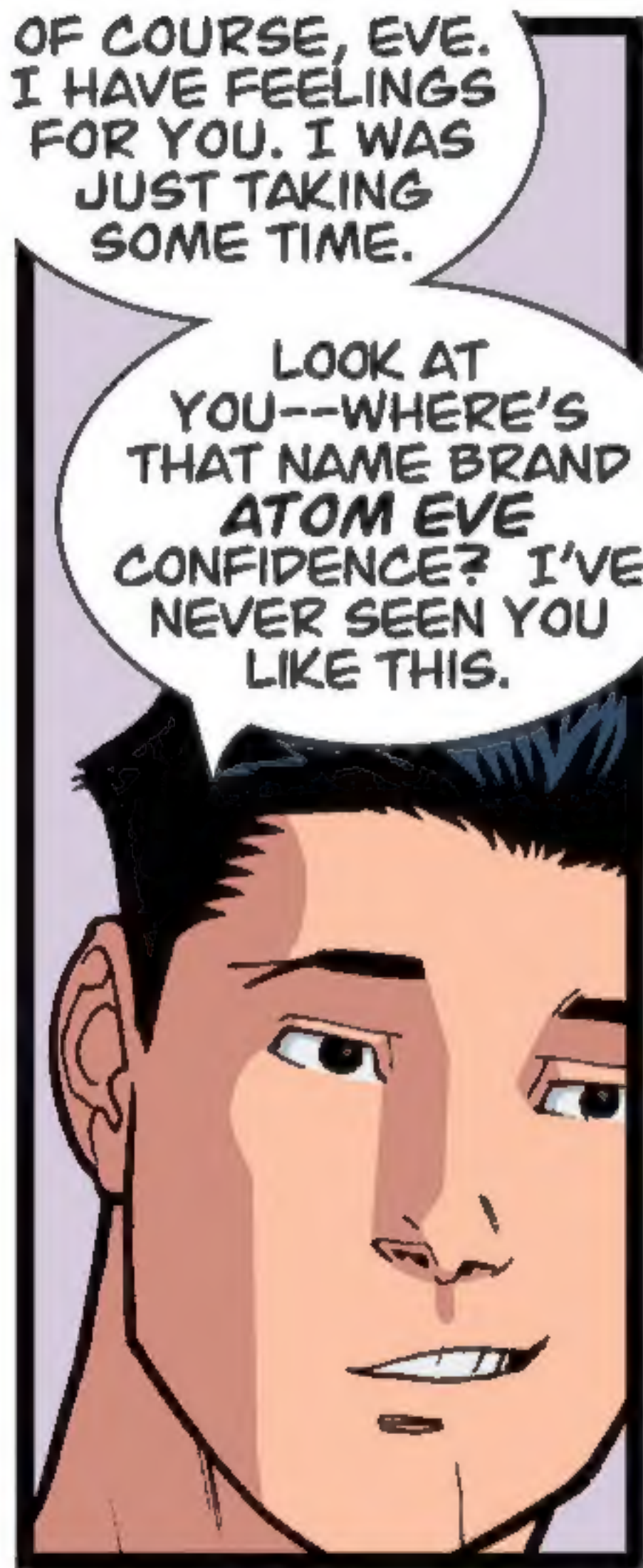
OF COURSE. I JUST... I **JUST** BROKE UP WITH HER. I STILL HAD SOME THINGS TO WORK OUT, Y'KNOW?

I WAS GOING TO CALL YOU. OR JUST VISIT.



SO--YOU THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK OUT?

US, I MEAN?



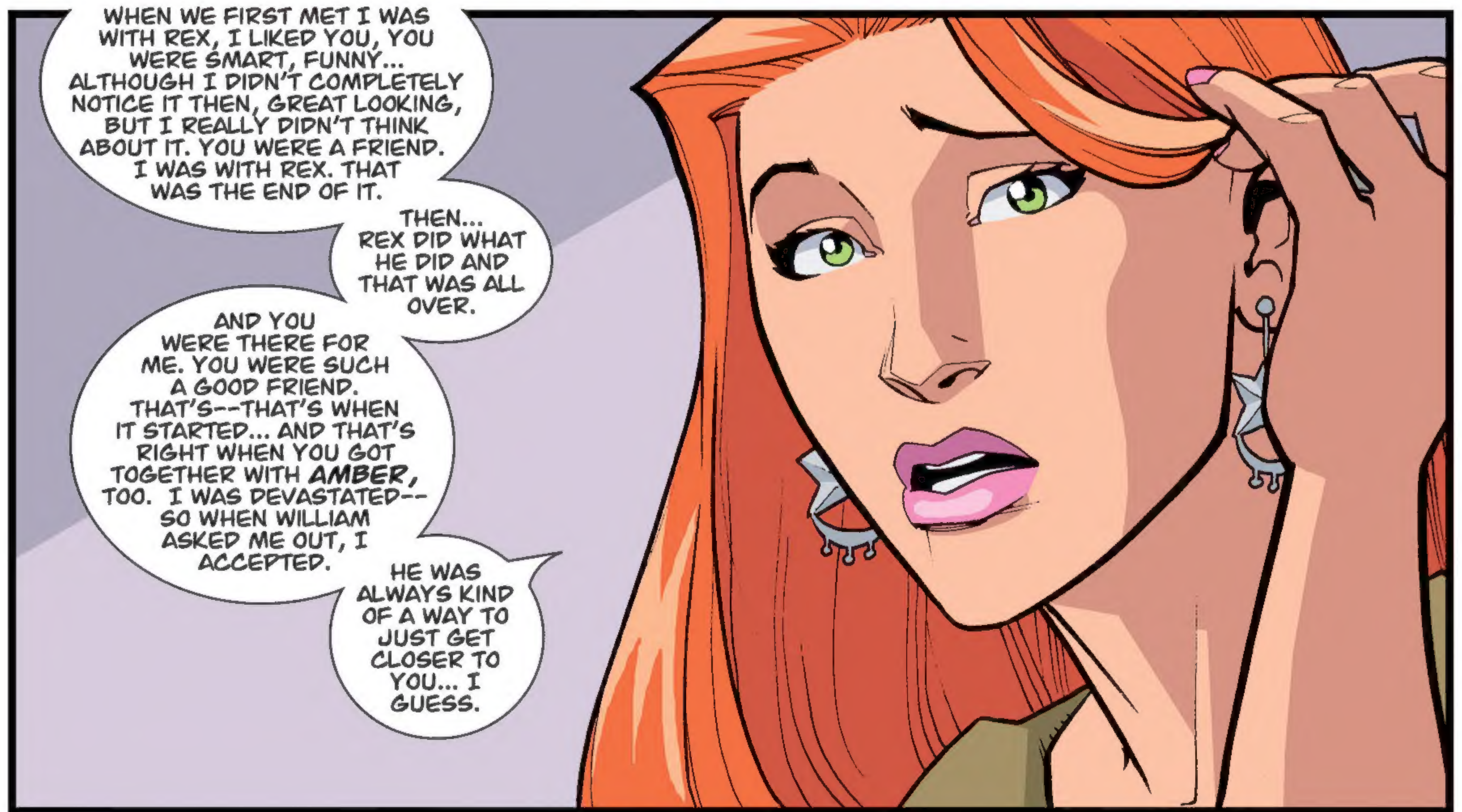
OF COURSE, EVE. I HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU. I WAS JUST TAKING SOME TIME.

LOOK AT YOU--WHERE'S THAT NAME BRAND **ATOM EVE** CONFIDENCE? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS.



I DON'T KNOW. IT'S... UGH.

THIS HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING, FOR ME.



WHEN WE FIRST MET I WAS WITH REX, I LIKED YOU, YOU WERE SMART, FUNNY... ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T COMPLETELY NOTICE IT THEN, GREAT LOOKING, BUT I REALLY DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT. YOU WERE A FRIEND. I WAS WITH REX. THAT WAS THE END OF IT.

THEN... REX DID WHAT HE DID AND THAT WAS ALL OVER.

AND YOU WERE THERE FOR ME. YOU WERE SUCH A GOOD FRIEND. THAT'S--THAT'S WHEN IT STARTED... AND THAT'S RIGHT WHEN YOU GOT TOGETHER WITH **AMBER**, TOO. I WAS DEVASTATED--SO WHEN WILLIAM ASKED ME OUT, I ACCEPTED.

HE WAS ALWAYS KIND OF A WAY TO JUST GET CLOSER TO YOU... I GUESS.



IF HE EVER EVEN **IMPLIES** THAT WE SLEPT TOGETHER I'LL KILL HIM.

IT **DIDN'T** HAPPEN.

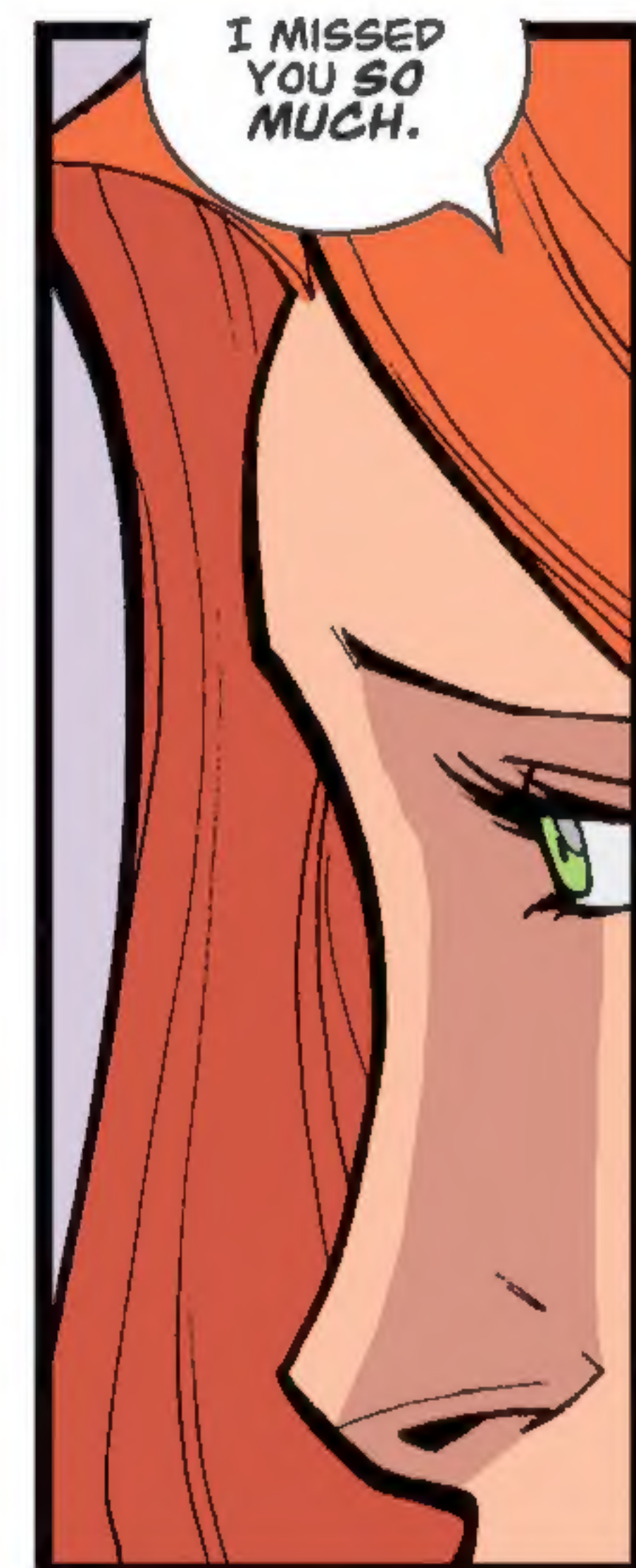


HE HASN'T YET... BUT UH, DULY NOTED.

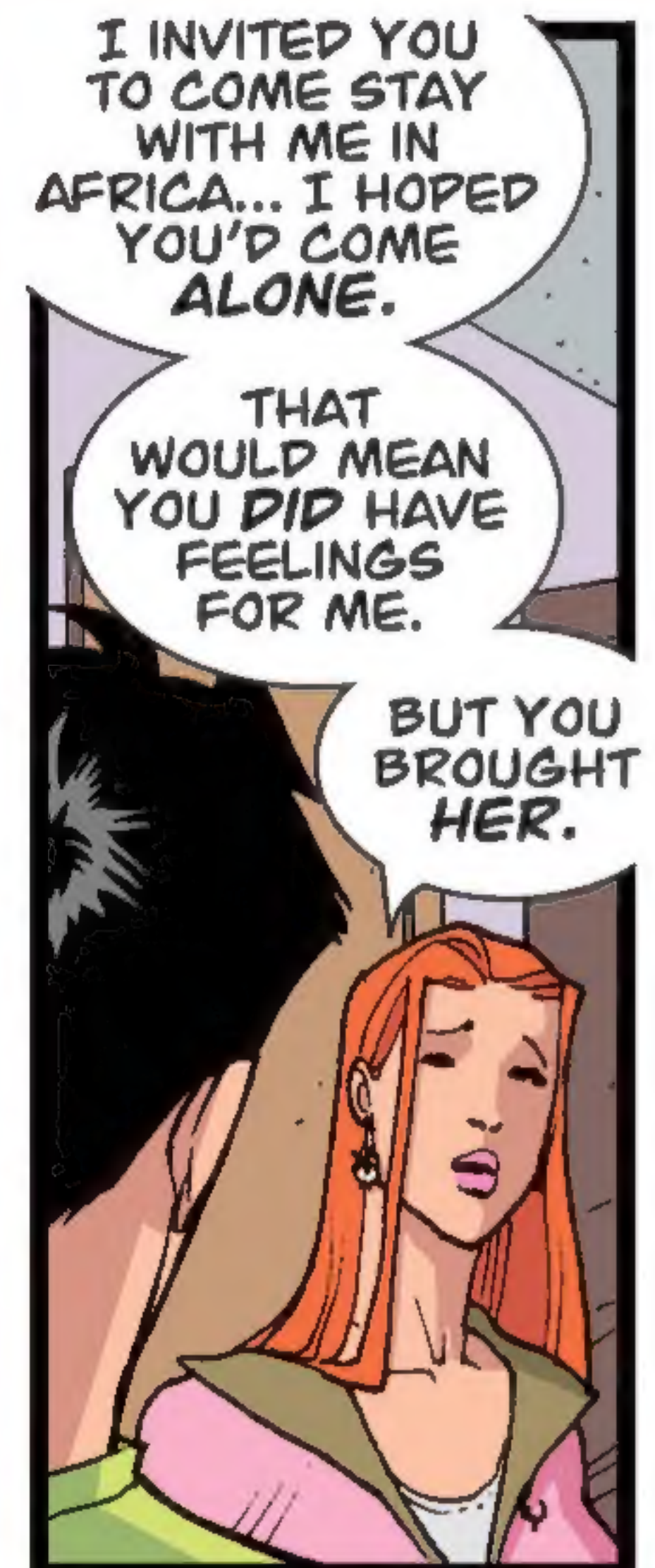


AFTER I BROKE UP WITH WILLIAM, I JUST-- IT WAS PAINFUL TO BE AROUND YOU. YOU AND **AMBER** WERE SO HAPPY IT... I **DID** GO TO AFRICA TO HELP PEOPLE, TO DO GOOD...

BUT BEING AWAY FROM YOU WAS A BIG PART OF IT.



I MISSED YOU SO MUCH.

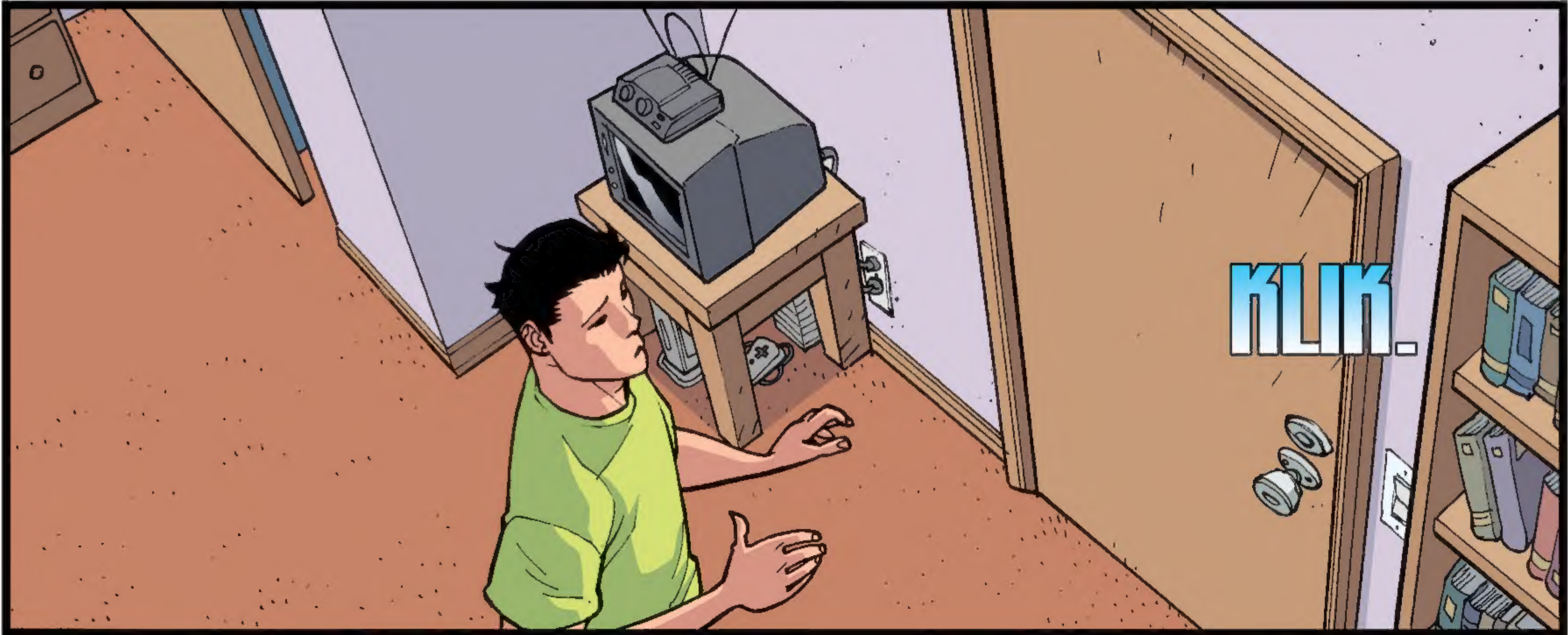
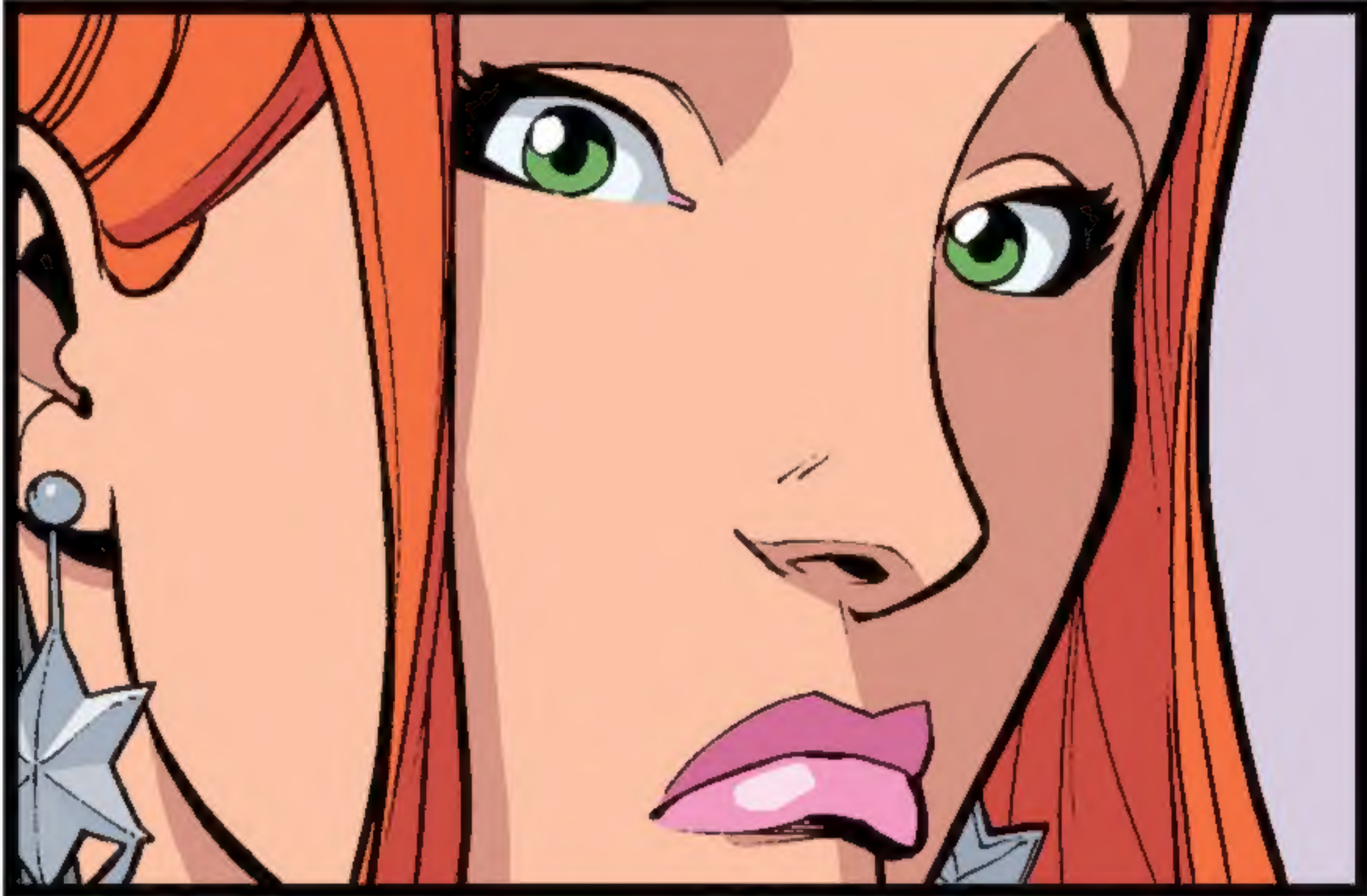
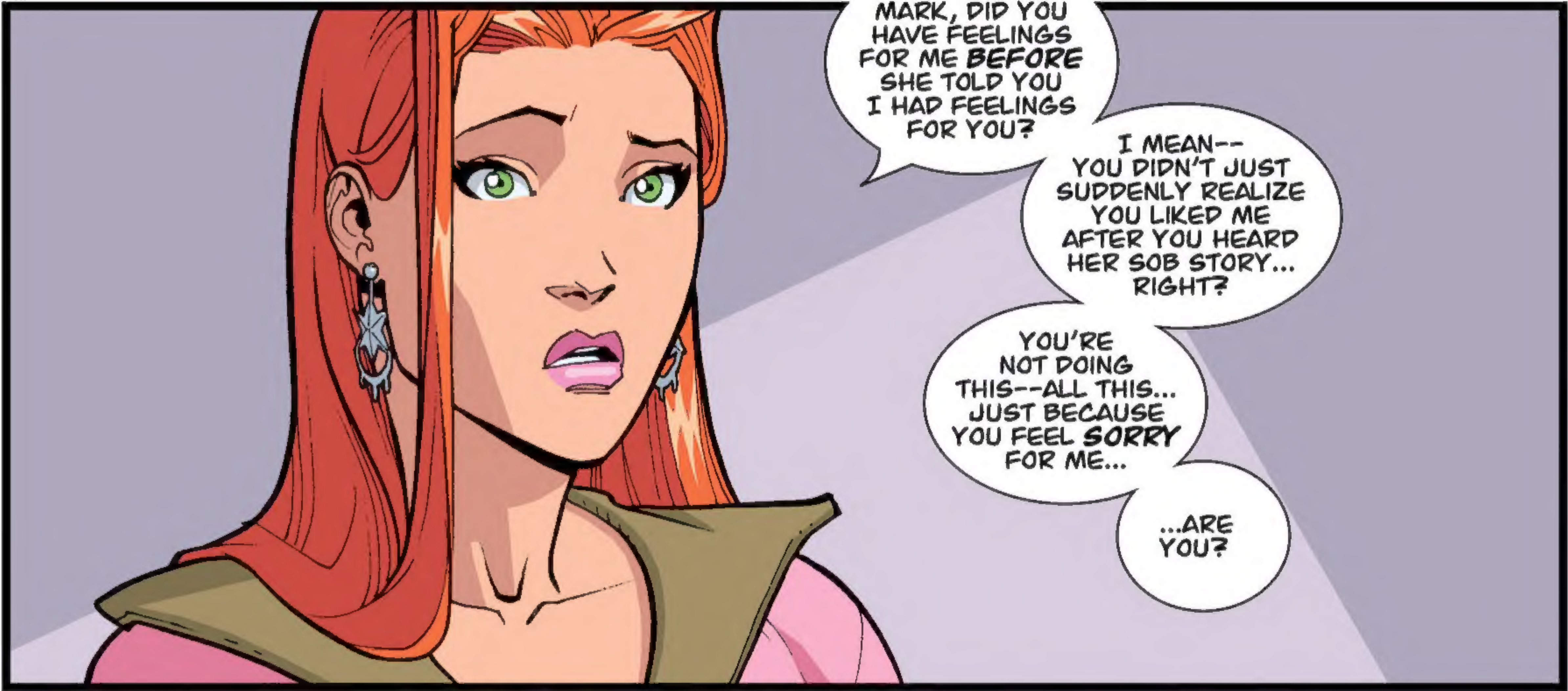


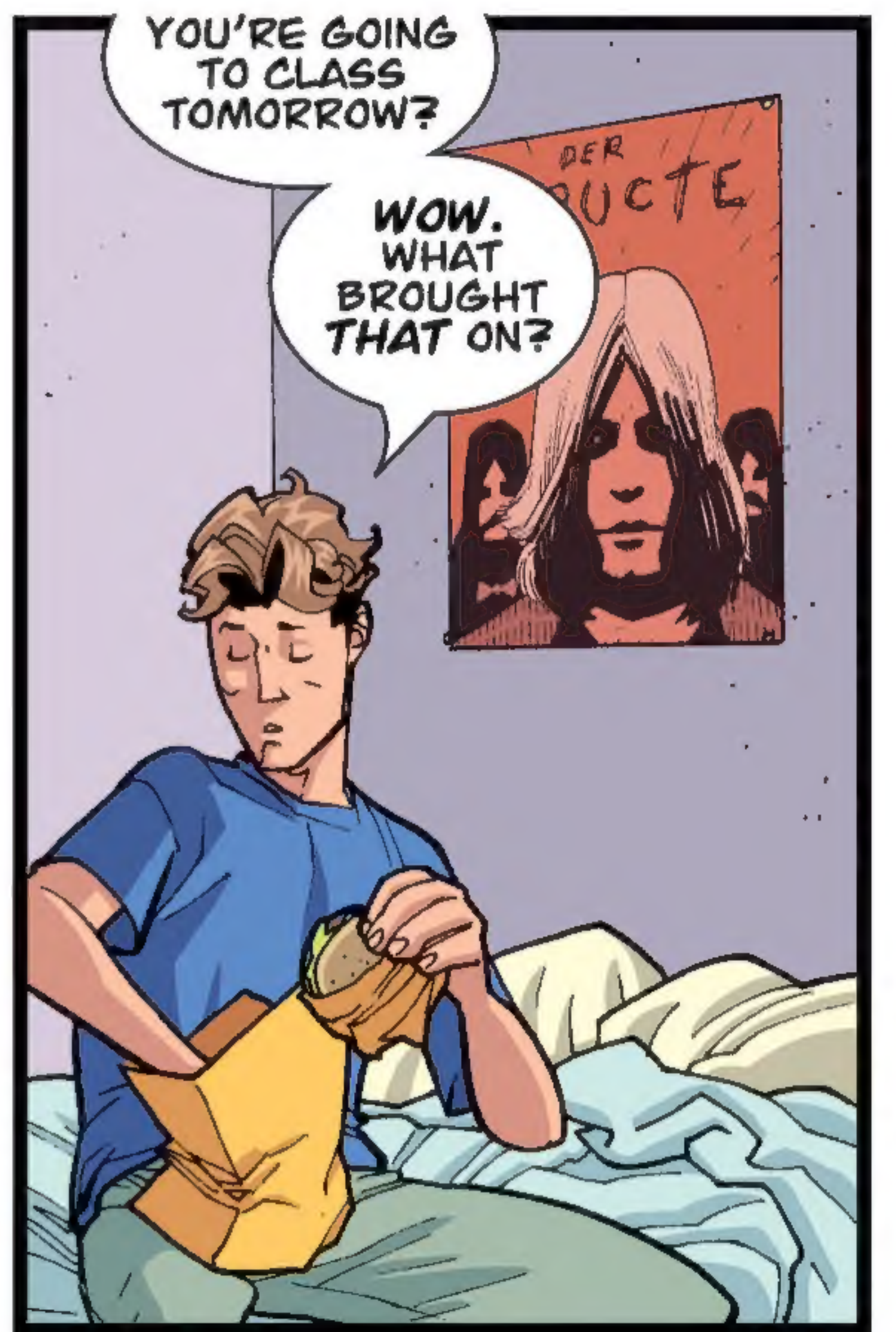
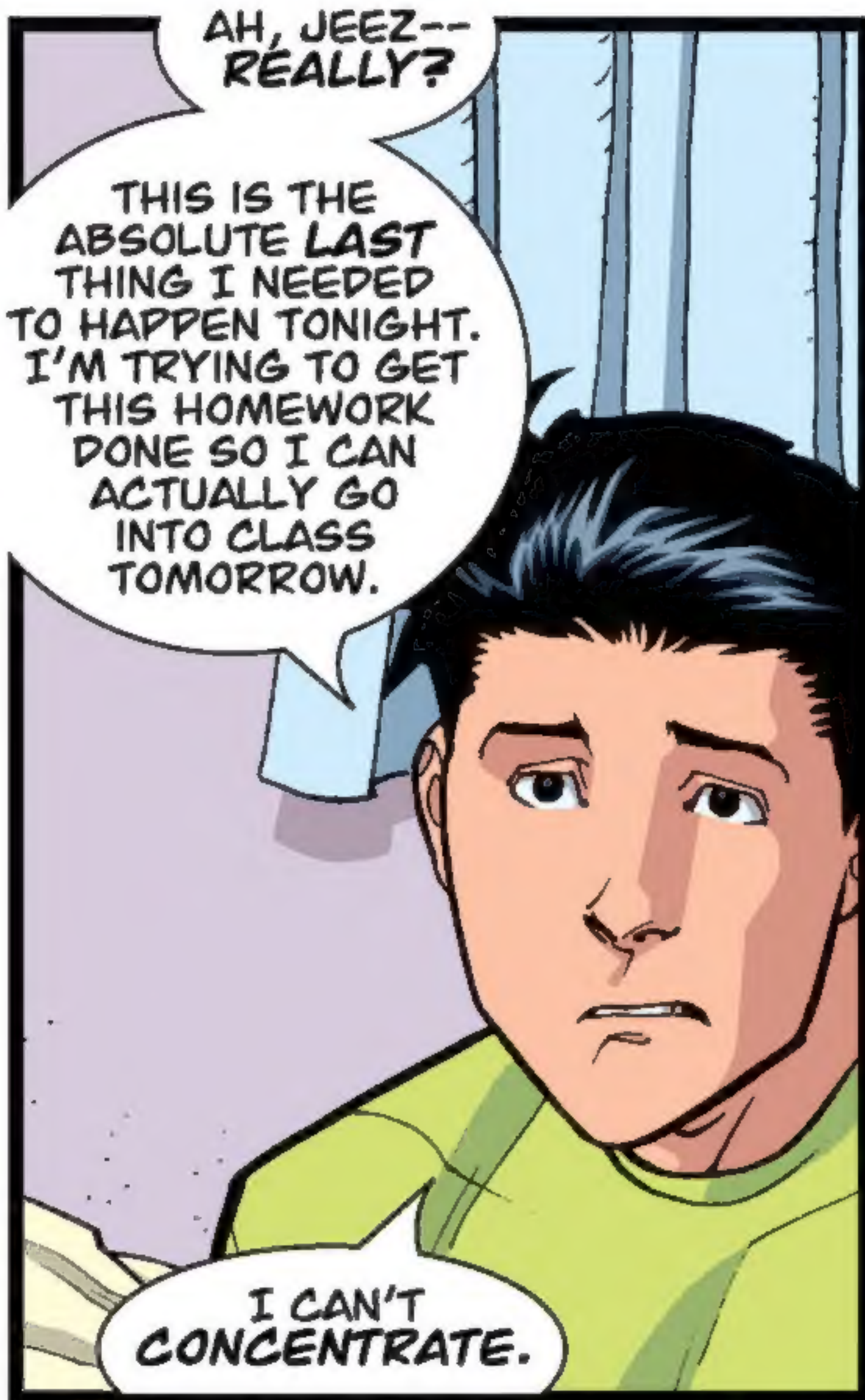
I INVITED YOU TO COME STAY WITH ME IN AFRICA... I HOPED YOU'D COME ALONE.

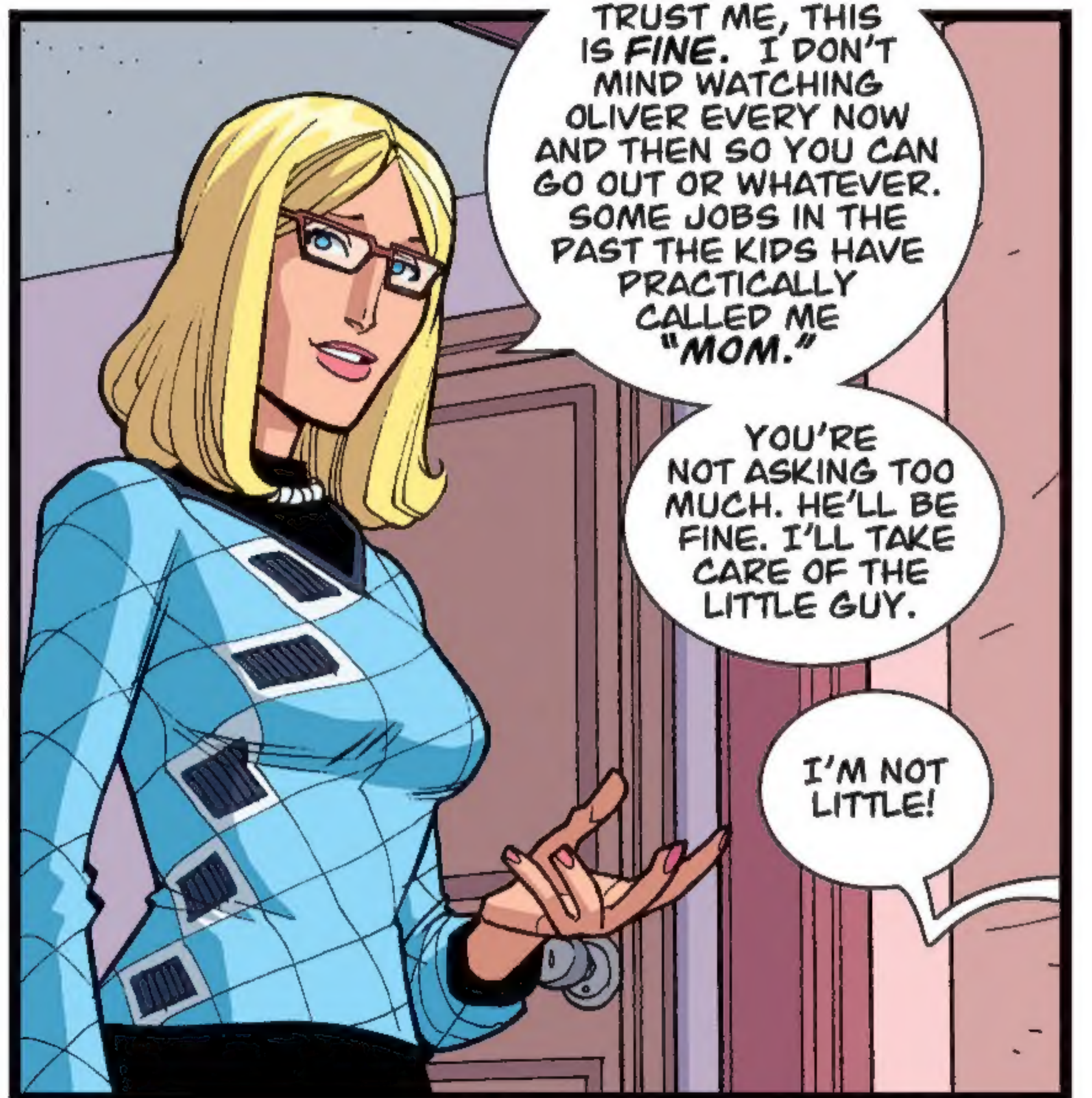
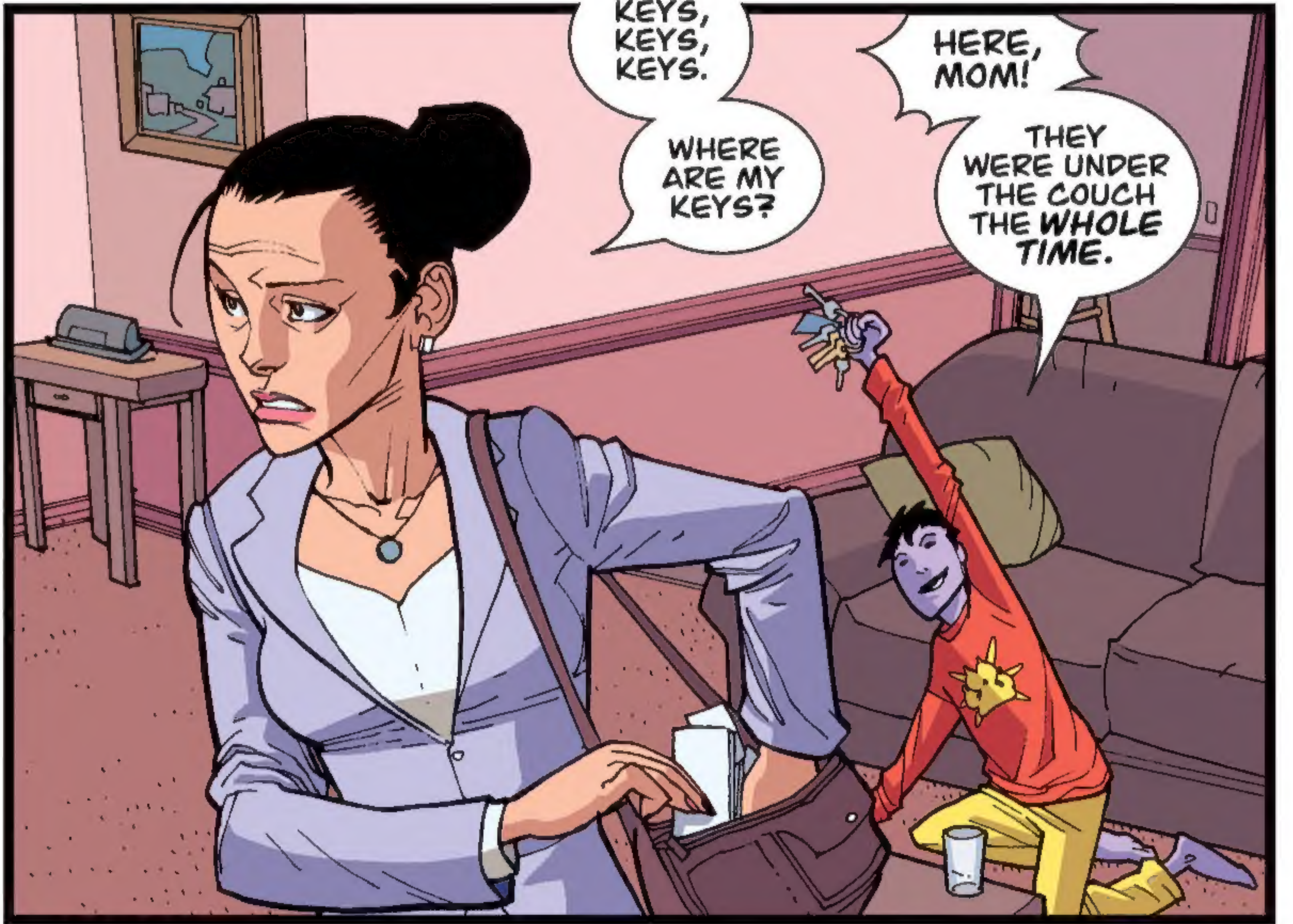
THAT WOULD MEAN YOU **DID** HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME.

BUT YOU BROUGHT HER.



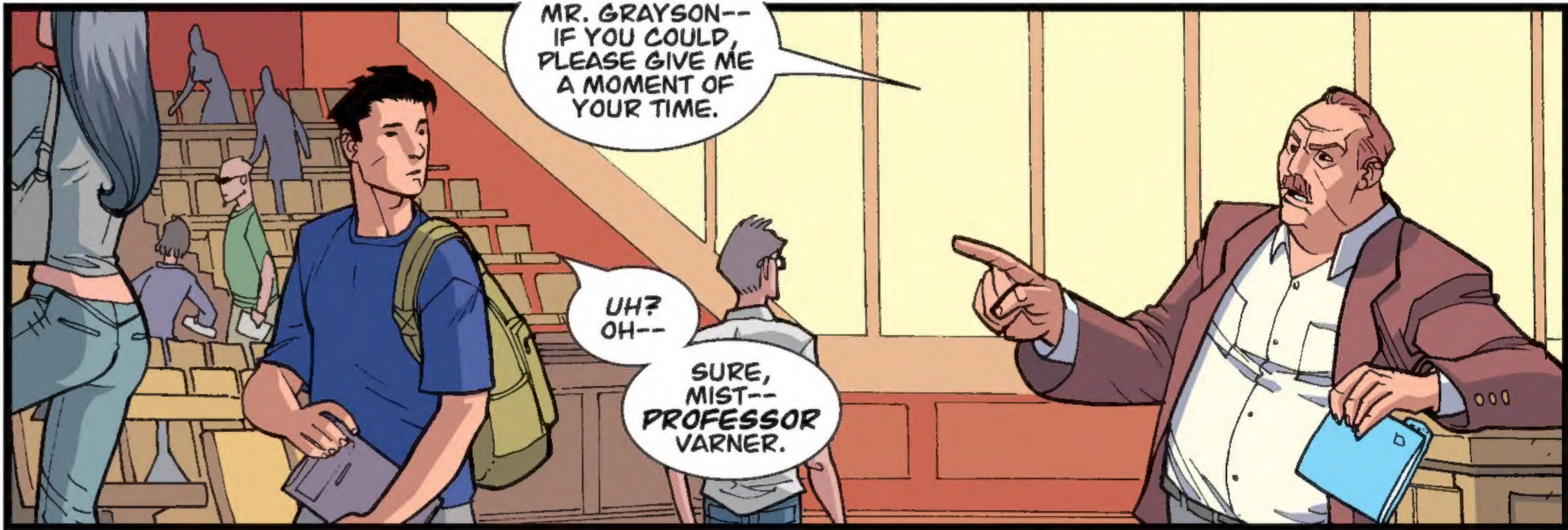








UPSTATE UNIVERSITY
WHERE MARK GRAYSON
IS CURRENTLY ATTENDING
CLASSES.



MR. GRAYSON--
IF YOU COULD,
PLEASE GIVE ME
A MOMENT OF
YOUR TIME.

UH?
OH--

SURE,
MIST--
PROFESSOR
VARNER.

I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK
I WOULDN'T NOTICE ONE
OF MY NOTORIOUSLY
EMPTY CLASSROOM SEATS
SUDDENLY FILLED. I'M
NOT AN UNOBSERVANT
MAN.

I JUST WANTED
TO PULL YOU ASIDE AND
SAY THAT IF YOU THINK
YOU CAN COME HERE, SO
LATE IN THE SEMESTER,
AND JUST FINISH
EVERYTHING UP AT
THE LAST MINUTE--
YOU CAN'T.

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?

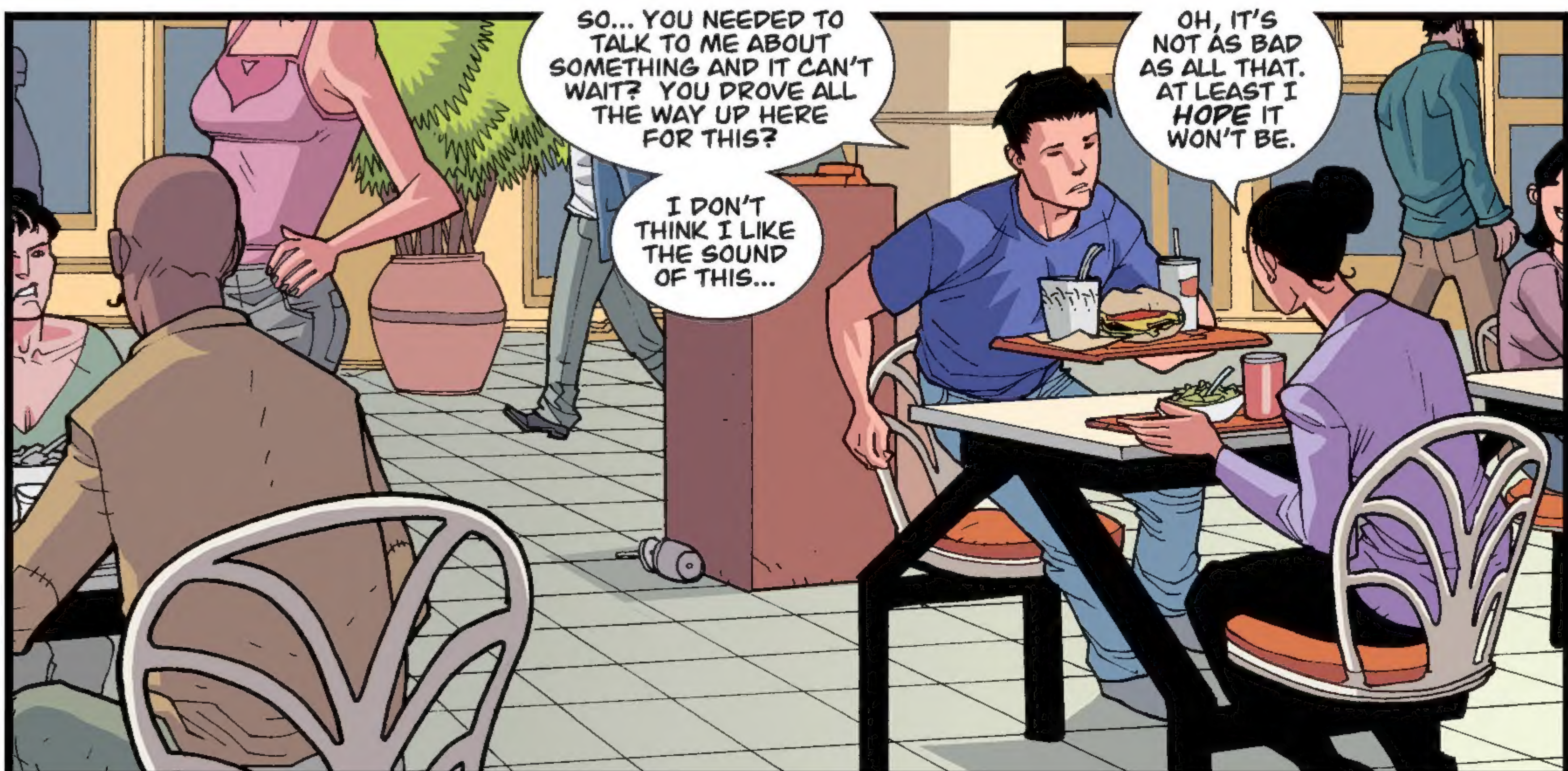
I'M SAYING,
YOU'VE ALREADY
FAILED MY
COURSE.

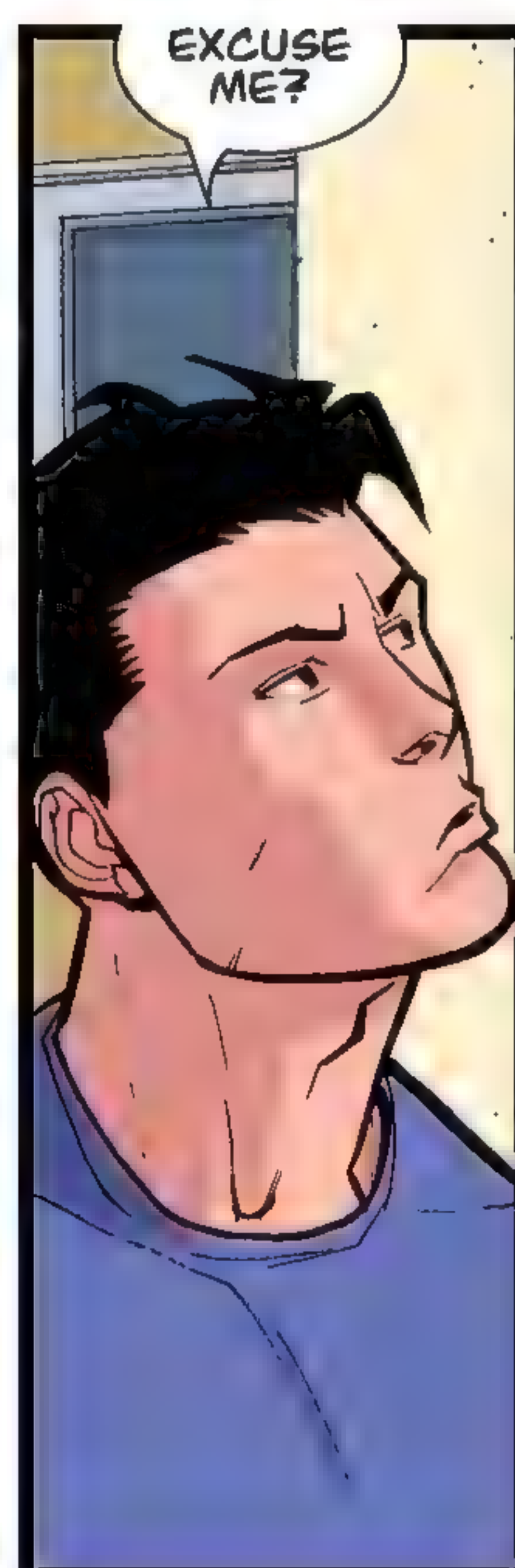
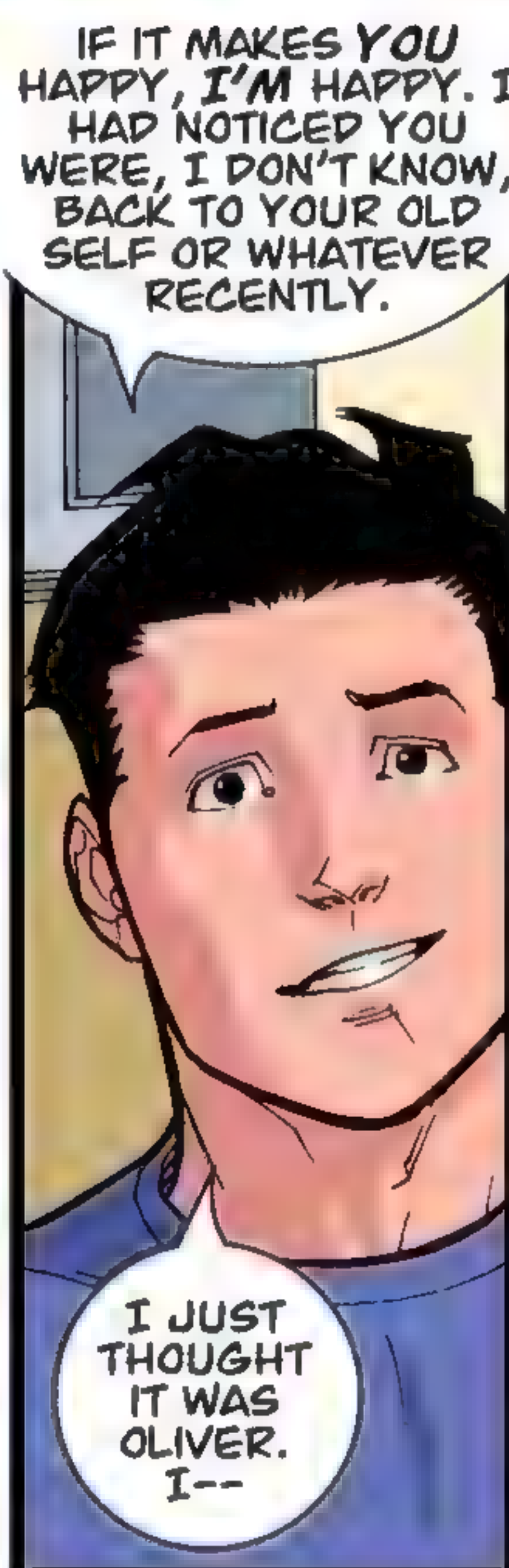
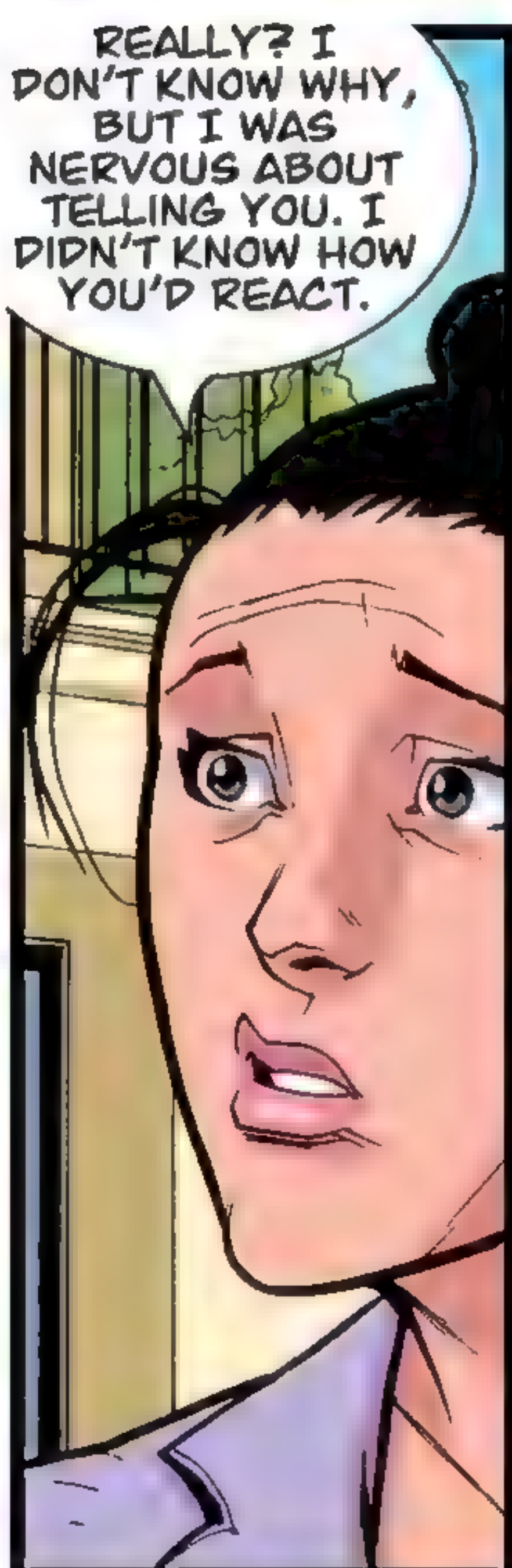
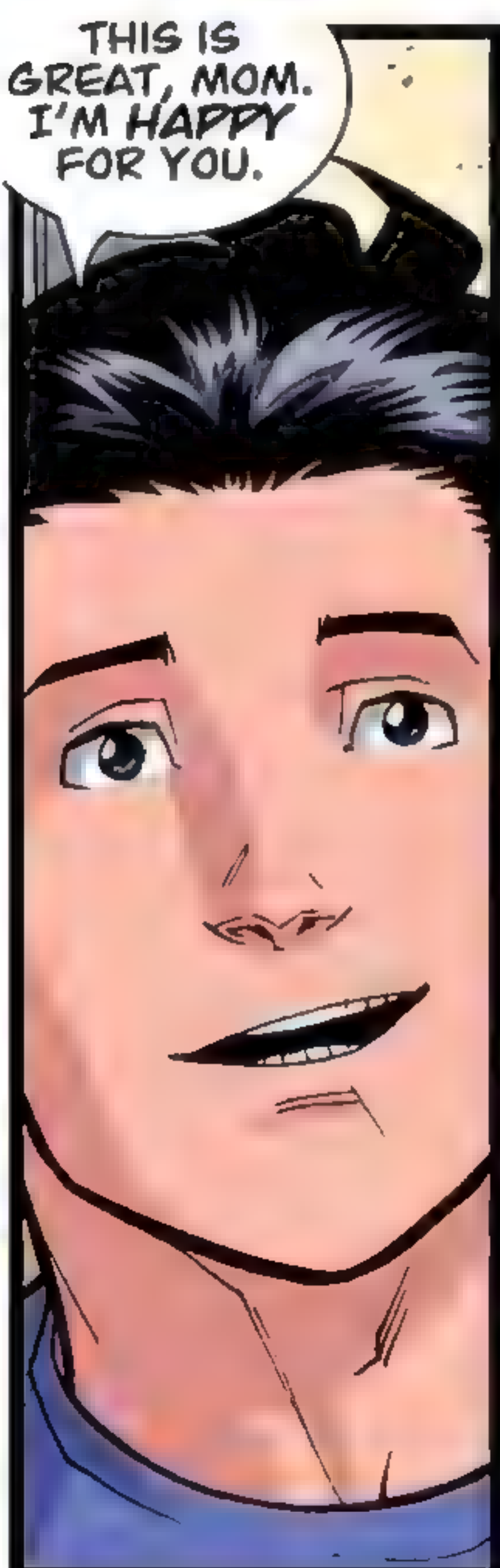
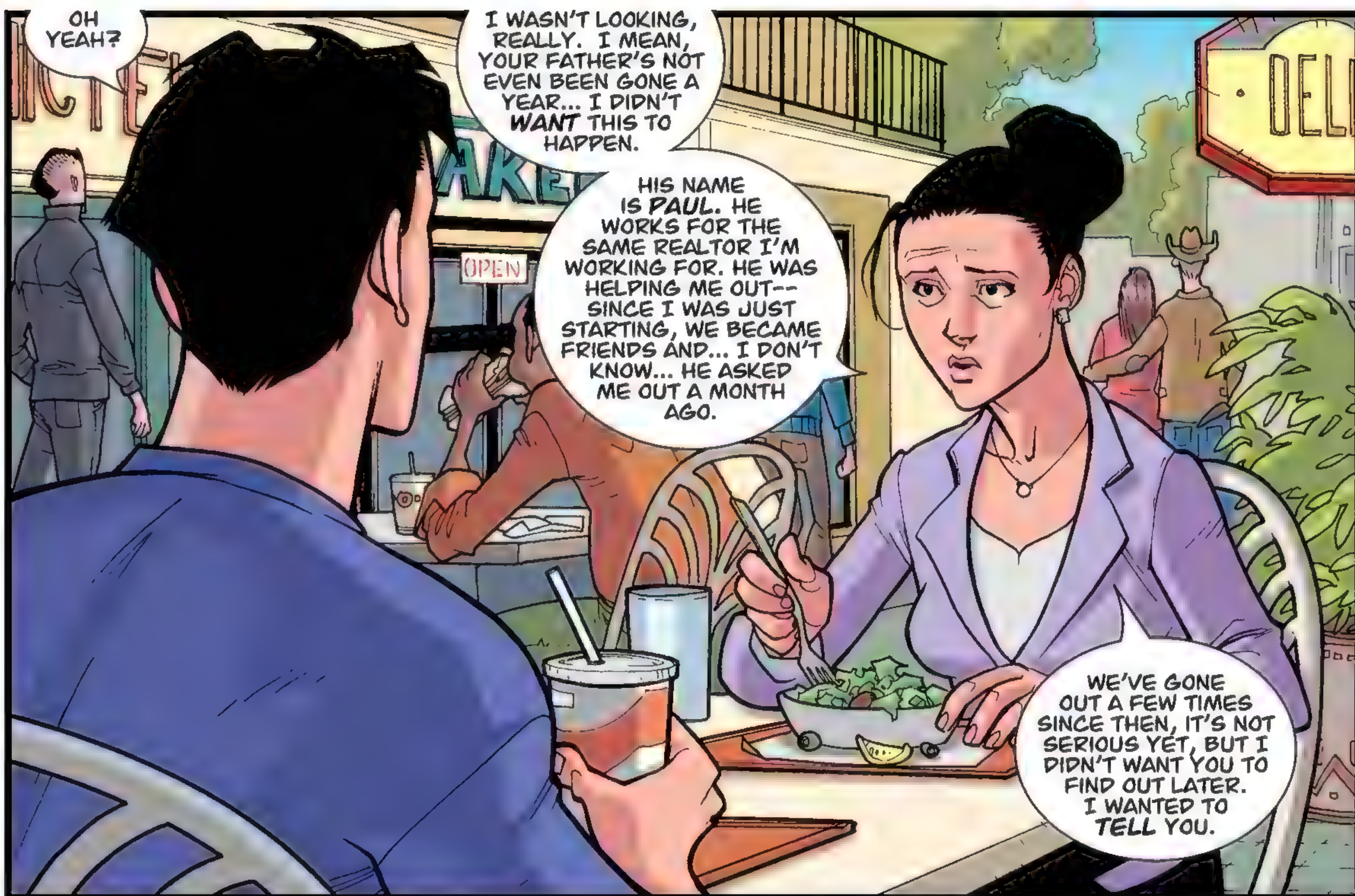
THERE'S
REALLY NO
POINT IN
SHOWING UP
NOW.

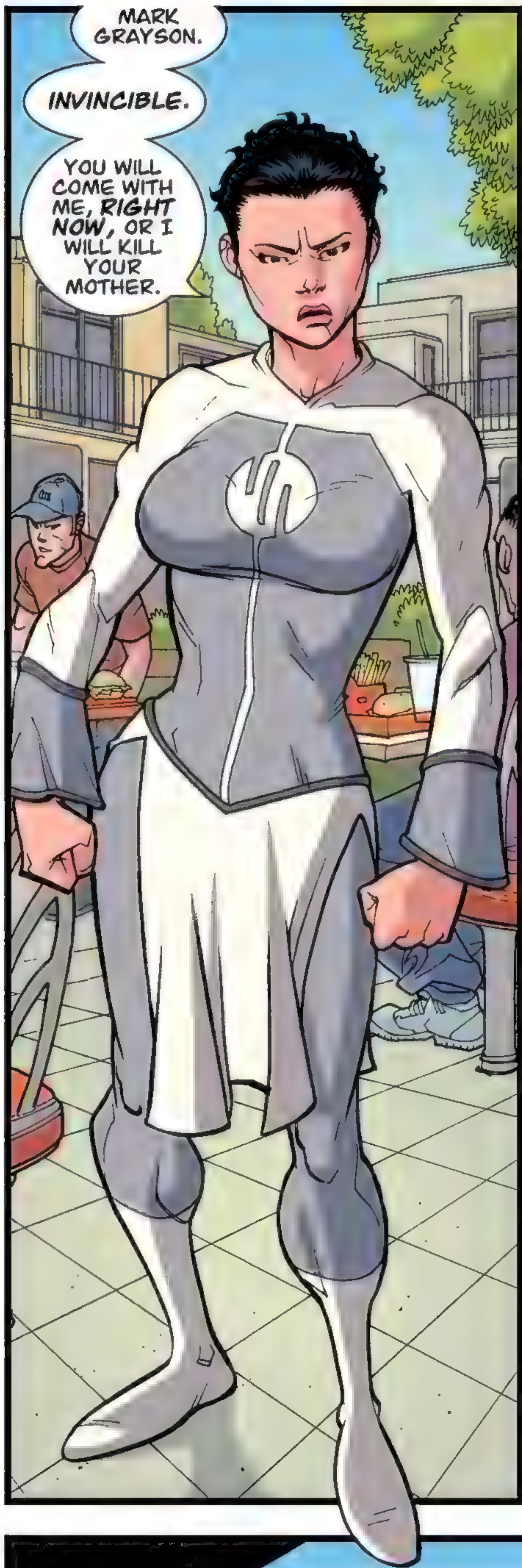


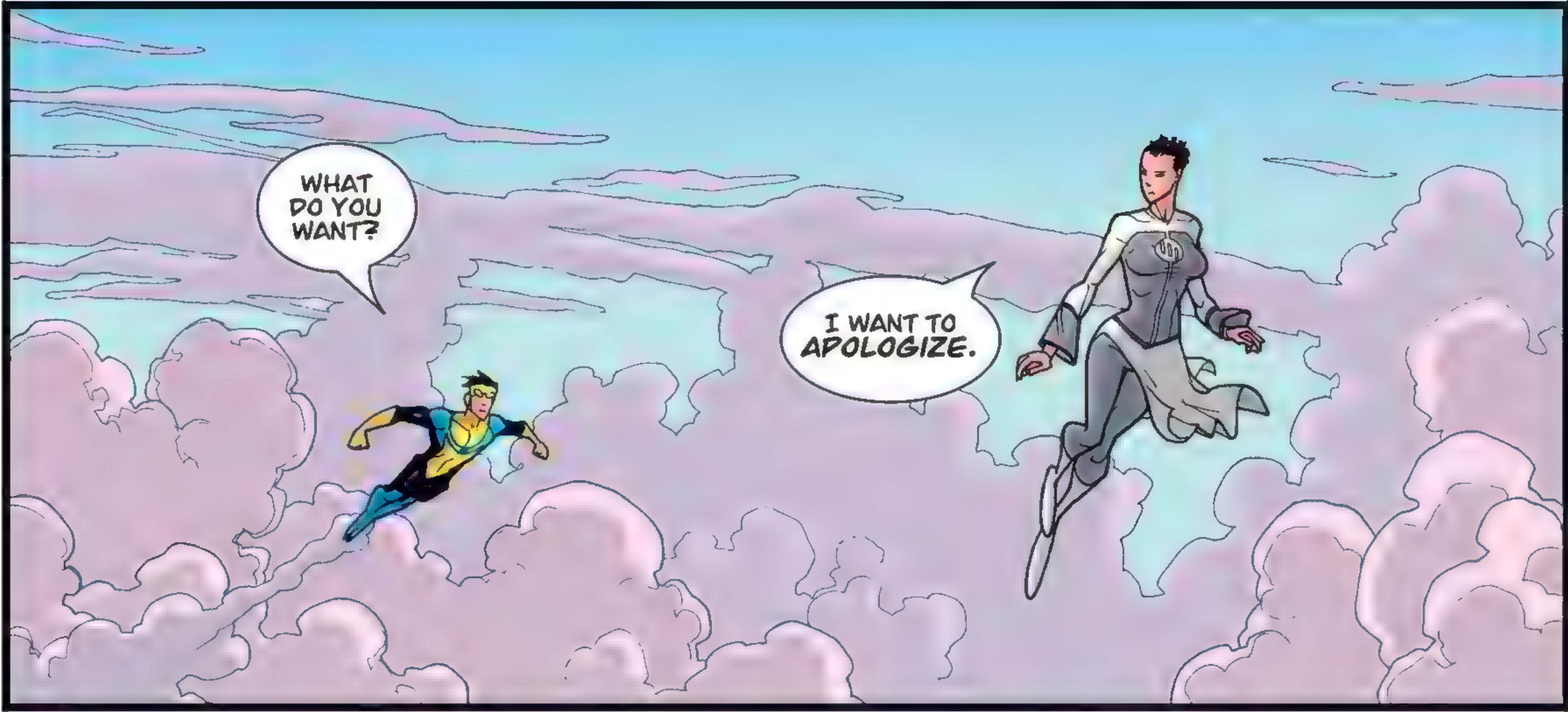
UH...

THANKS.



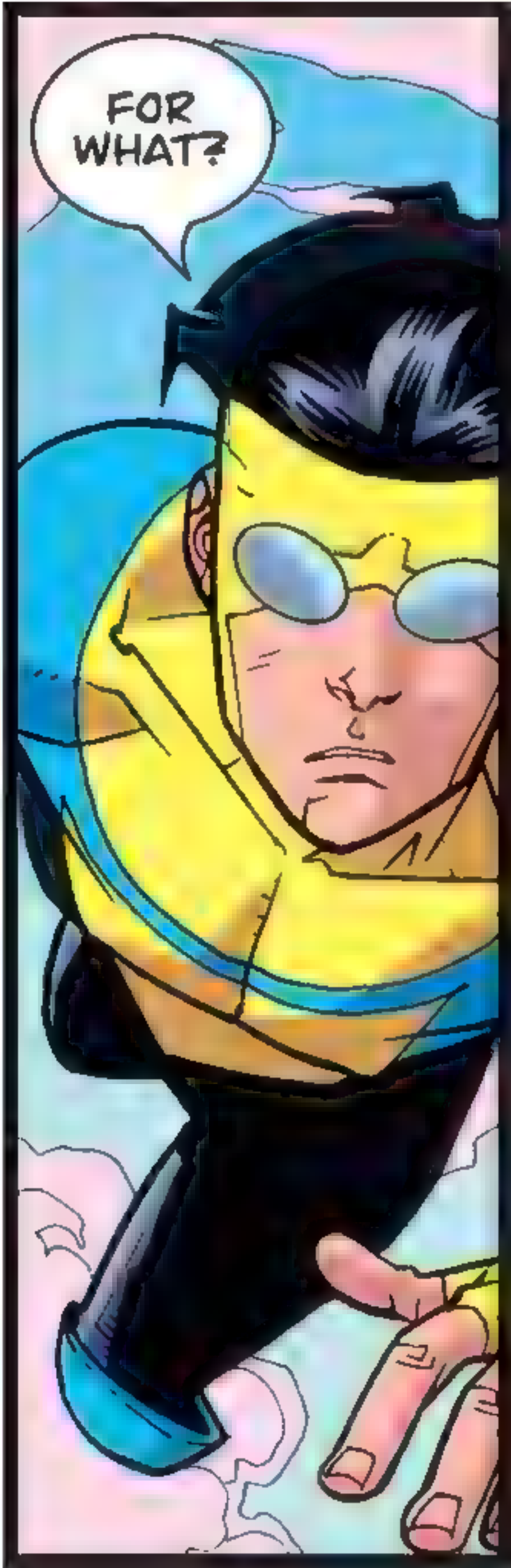






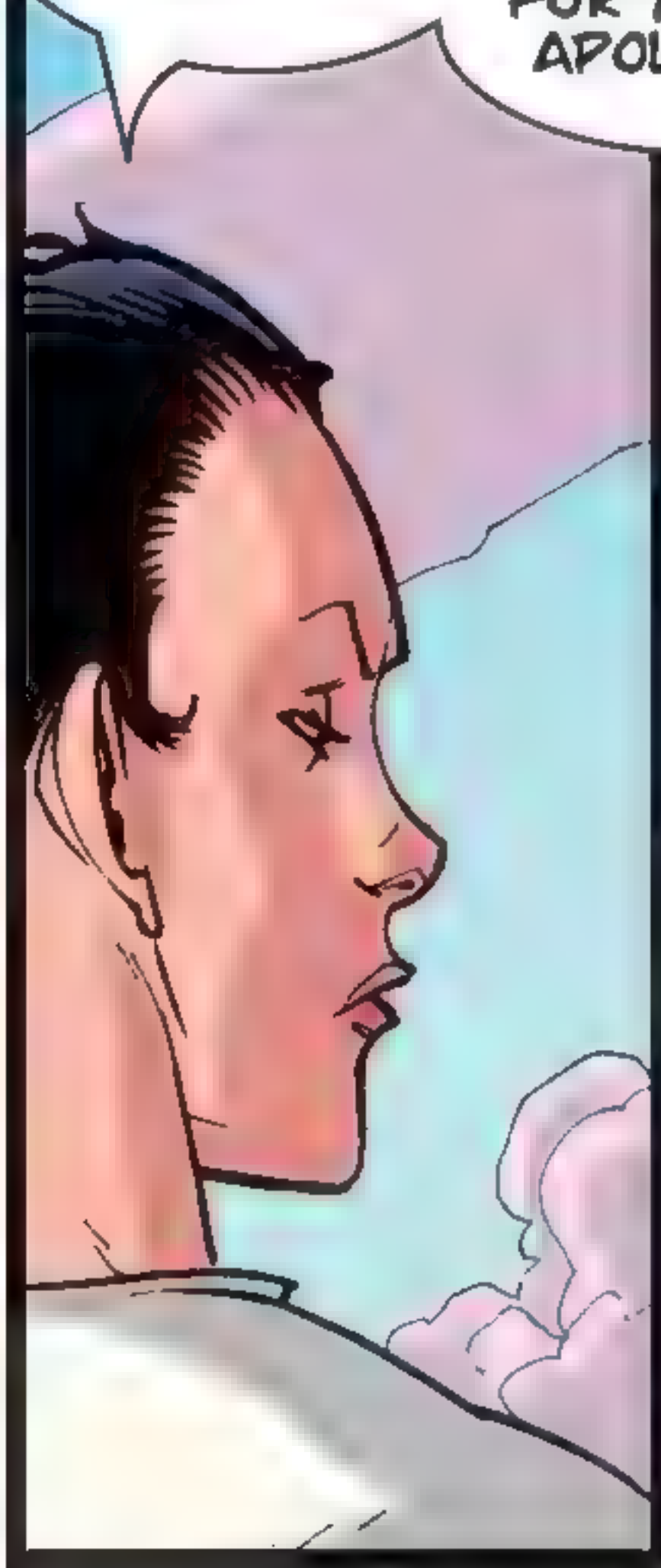
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE.



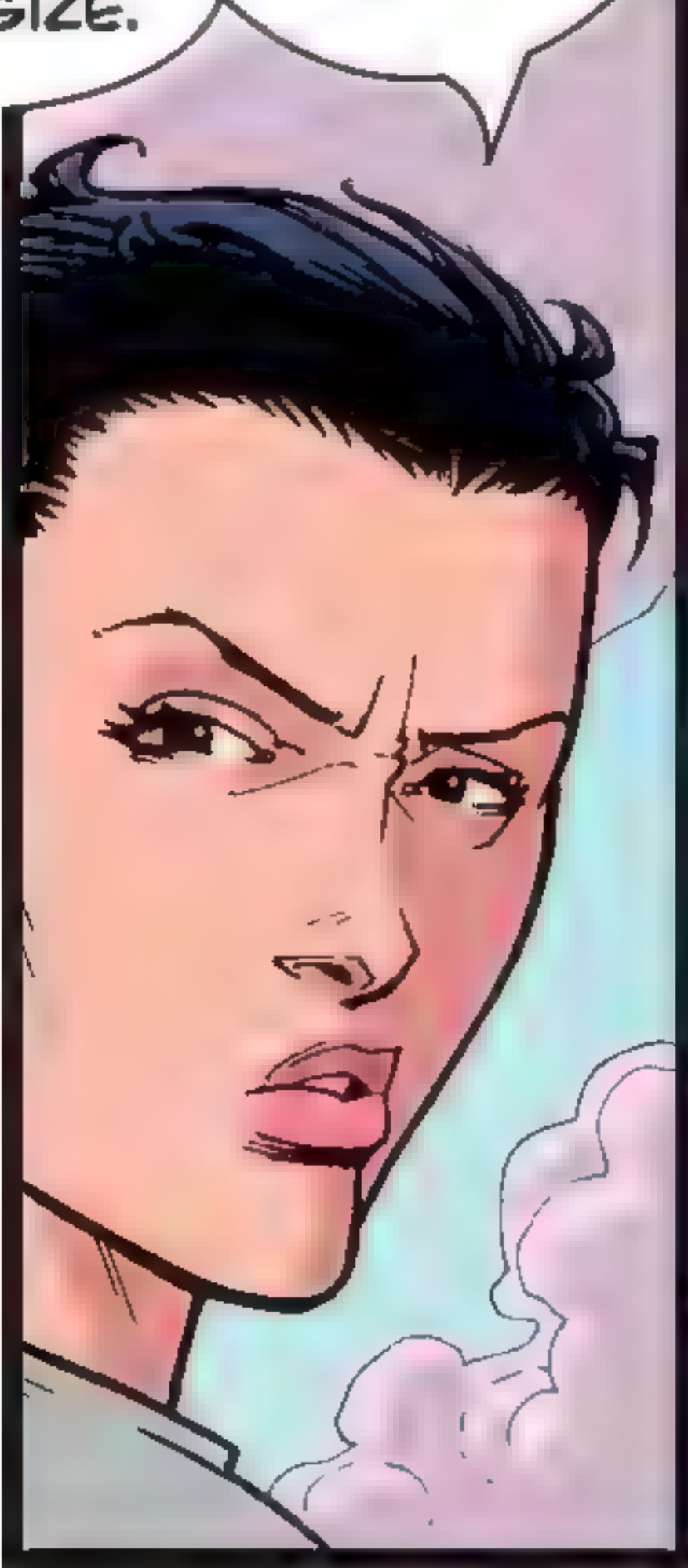
FOR WHAT?

FOR THREATENING YOUR MOTHER. THAT'S NOT HOW I WANTED THIS TO START. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I THOUGHT I COULD GET YOU ALONE QUICKLY.



FOR THAT, I APOLOGIZE.

YOU HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED THE VILTRUMITE AGENT OF THIS PLANET. WHAT STEPS HAVE YOU TAKEN TO PREPARE THIS PLANET FOR EVENTUAL TAKEOVER?



NONE.



I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT YOU, MARK.

TRUST ME. IF I WERE HERE TO HURT YOU--YOU'D ALREADY BE DEAD.

THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?

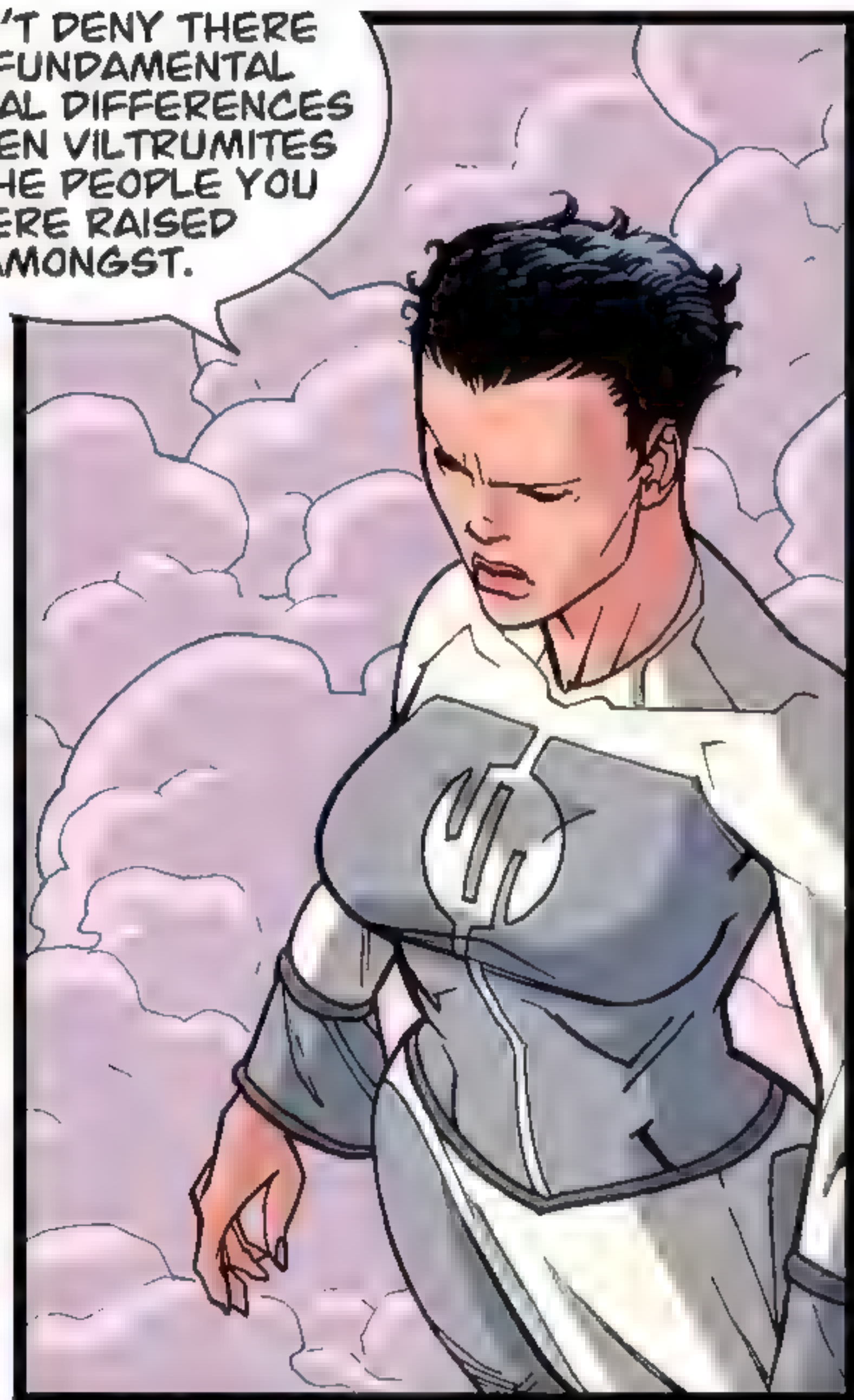


TO CLARIFY THINGS. I BELIEVE YOU ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT VILTRUMITES ARE WARMONGERS, A RACE TO BE FEARED, OPPOSED, EVEN DESTROYED.

I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE MISTAKEN.



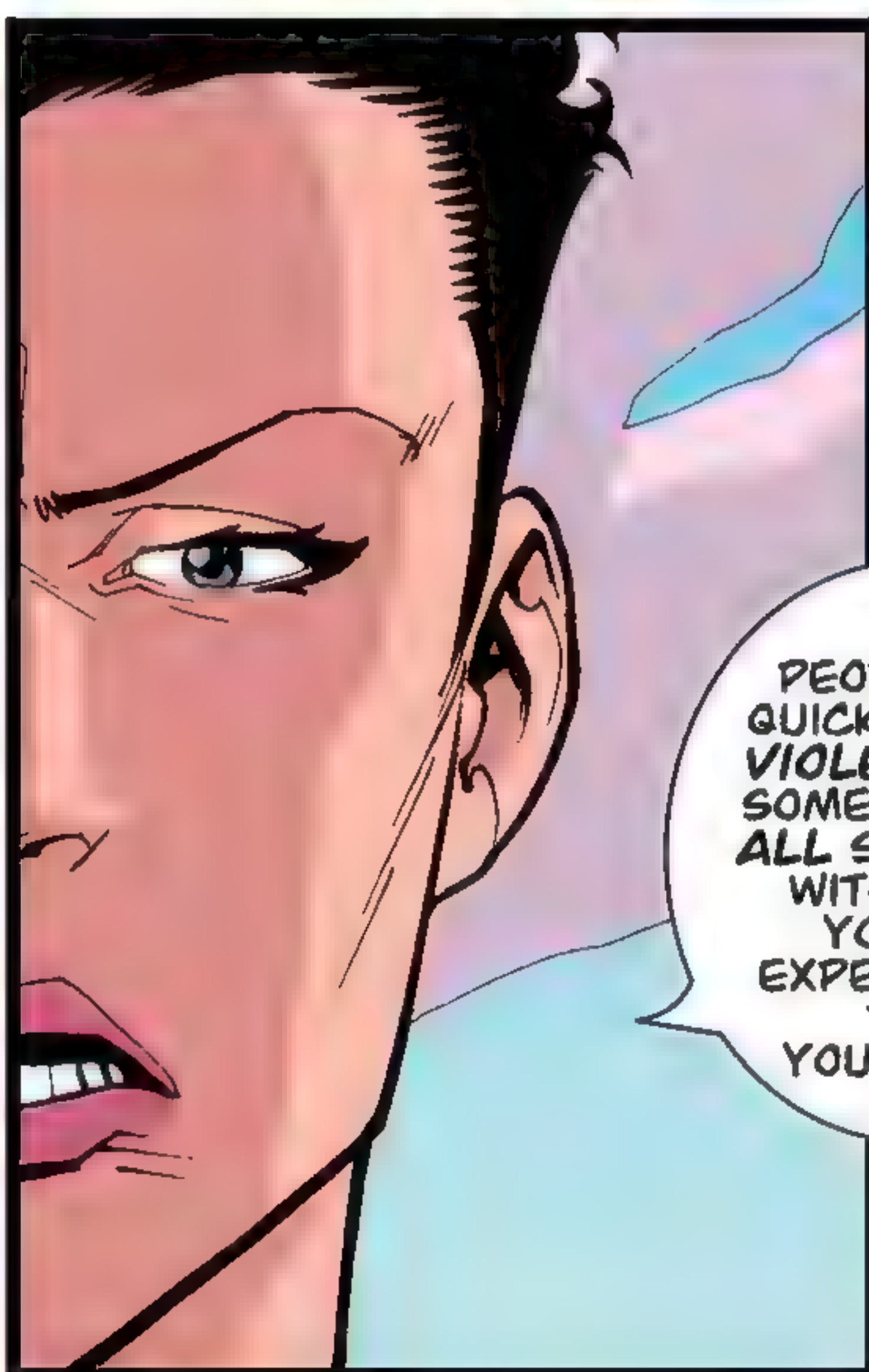
AND YOU STARTED BY THREATENING TO KILL MY MOTHER?



I WON'T DENY THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL CULTURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN VILTRUMITES AND THE PEOPLE YOU WERE RAISED AMONGST.



"FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES?"
YOU THINK?!



OUR PEOPLE ARE QUICK TO TURN VIOLENT. IT IS SOMETHING WE ALL STRUGGLE WITH. HAVE YOU NOT EXPERIENCED THIS YOURSELF?

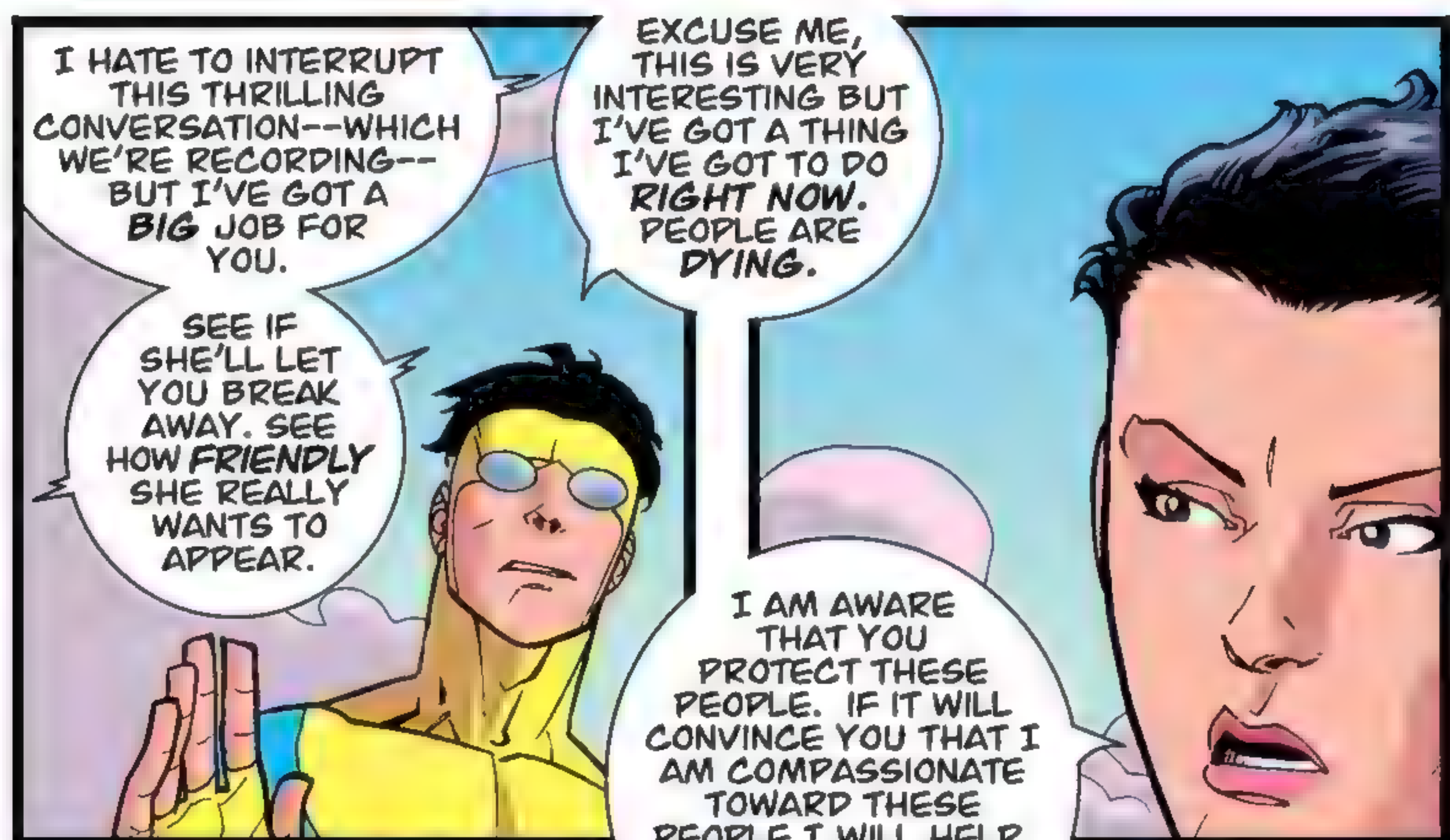
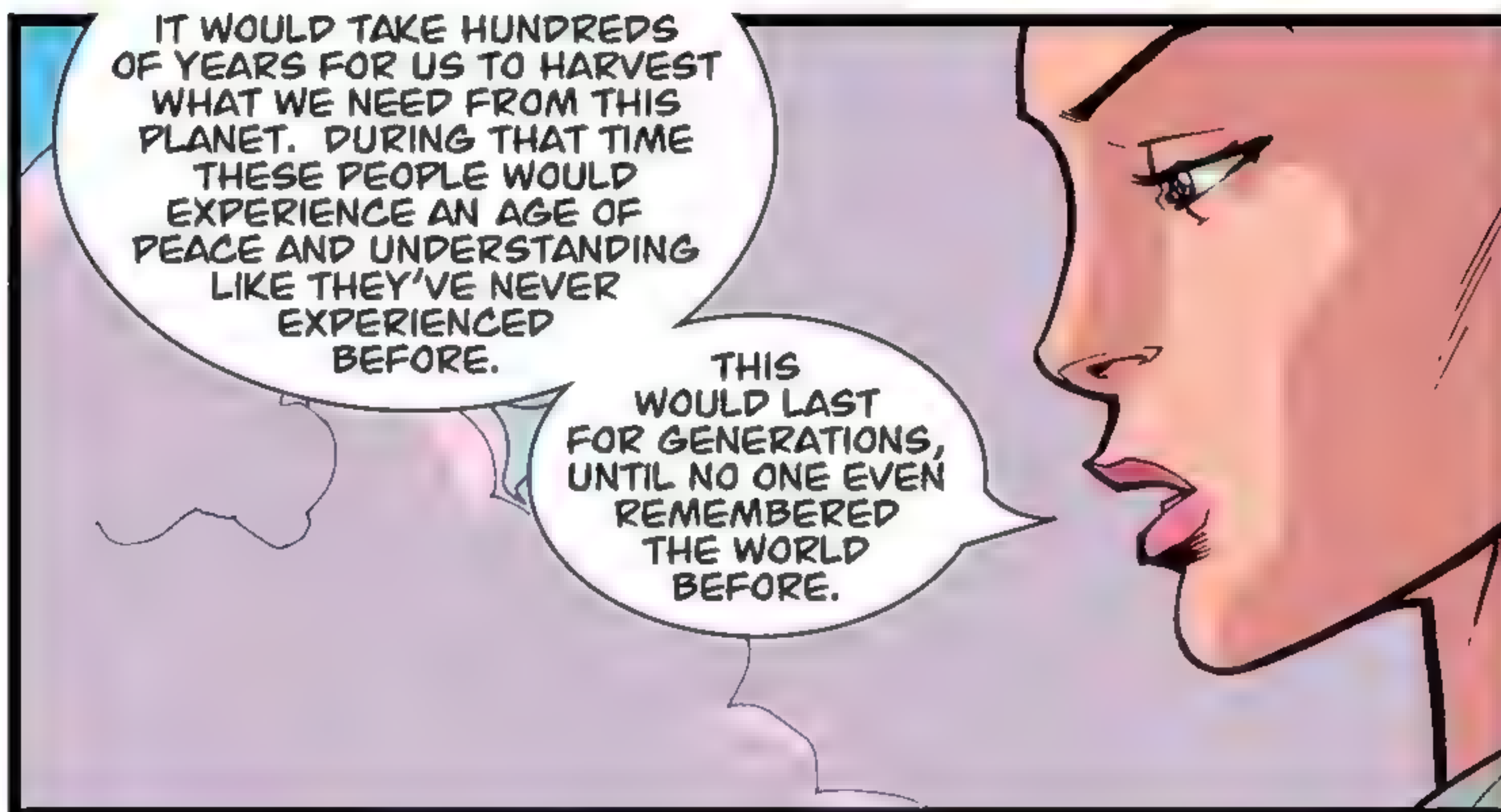
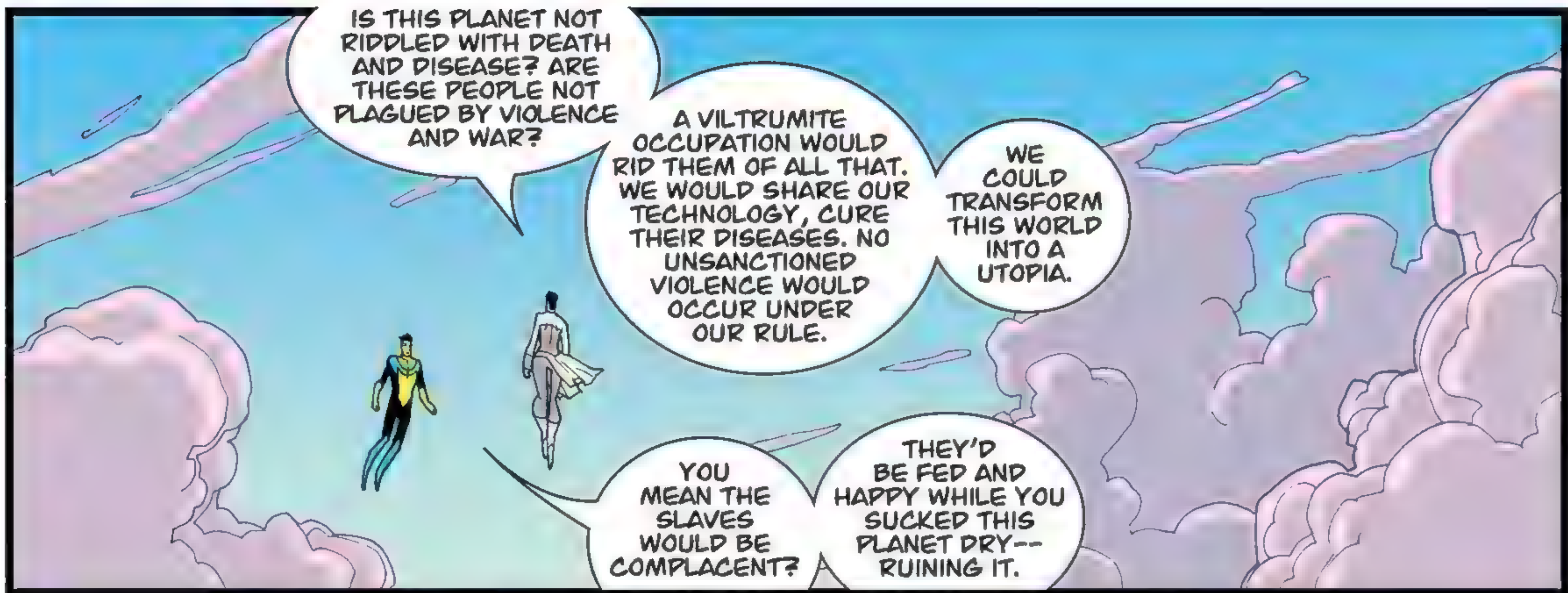


DESPITE WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT US AND OUR NATURE. YOU ARE MISUNDERSTANDING THE INTENT OF OUR DRIVE TO CONQUER OTHER WORLDS.

WE TAKE OVER, YES, AND WE DO TAKE OUR SHARE OF A PLANET'S NATURAL RESOURCES BUT WE BRING SO MUCH TO THE PLANET IN RETURN.

WE REALLY HAVE A LOT TO OFFER.

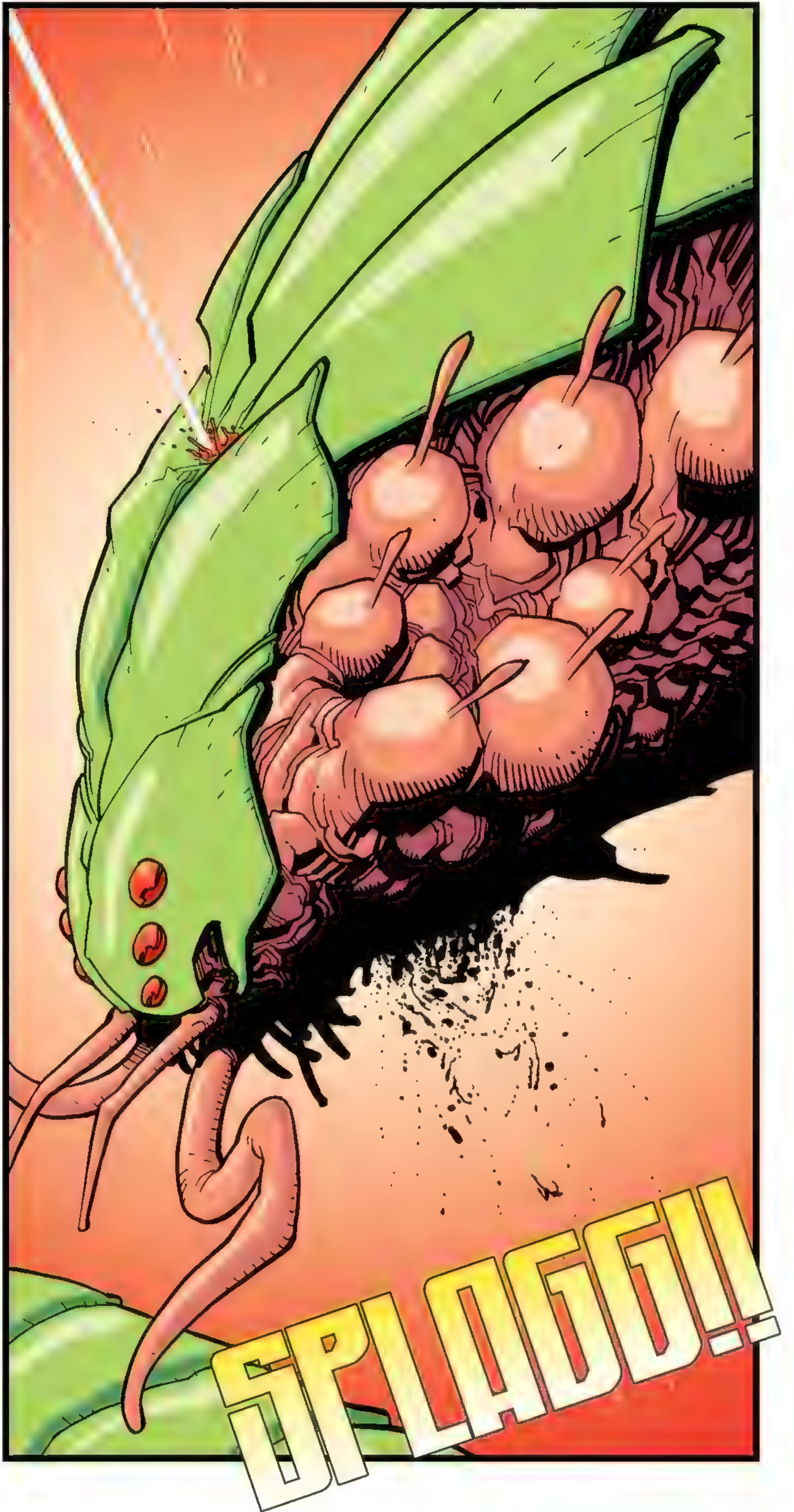
LIKE WHAT?!

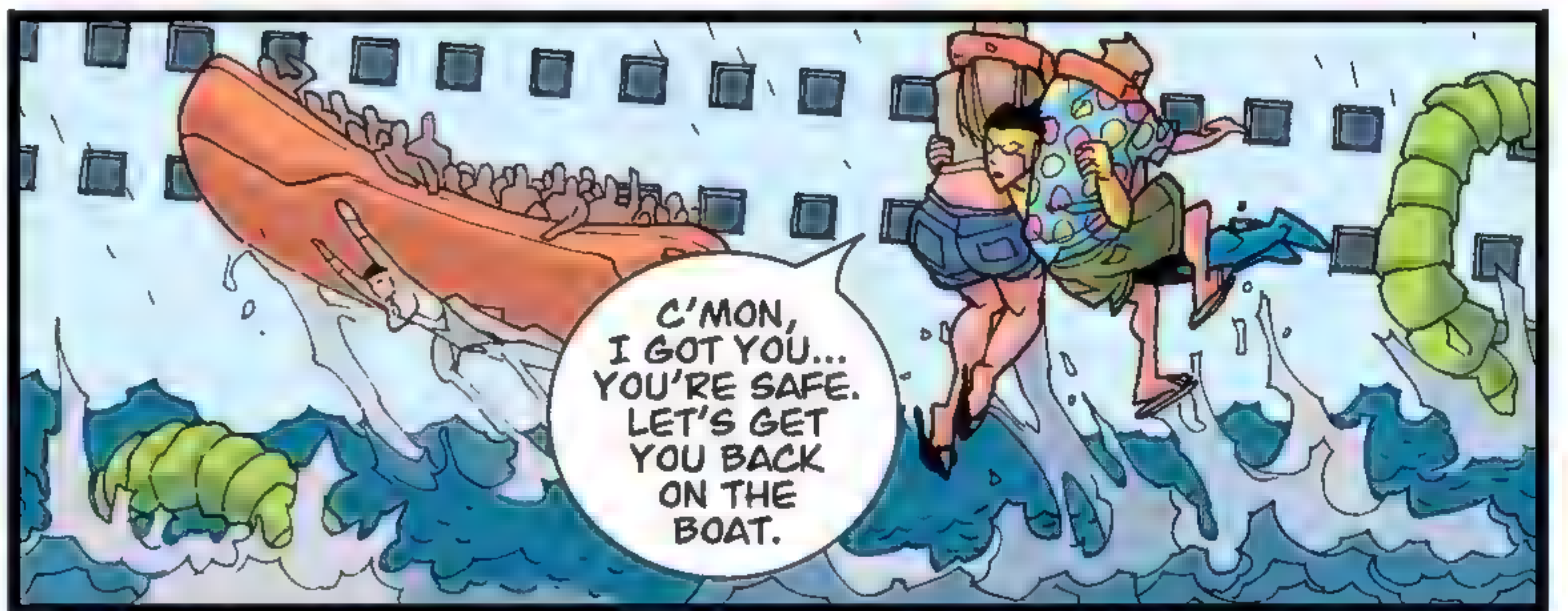




HOLY CRAP.

THE MONSTER--I CAN HURT THE MONSTER, RIGHT?





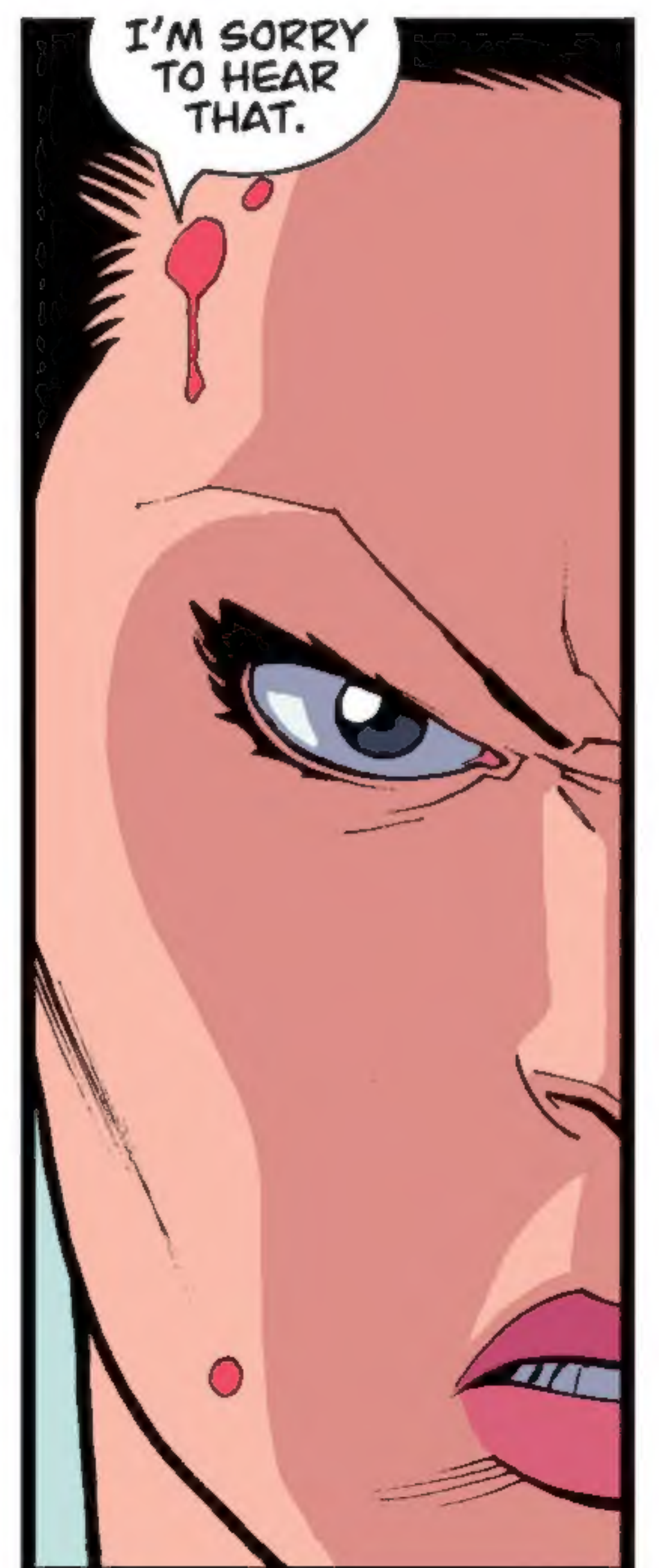
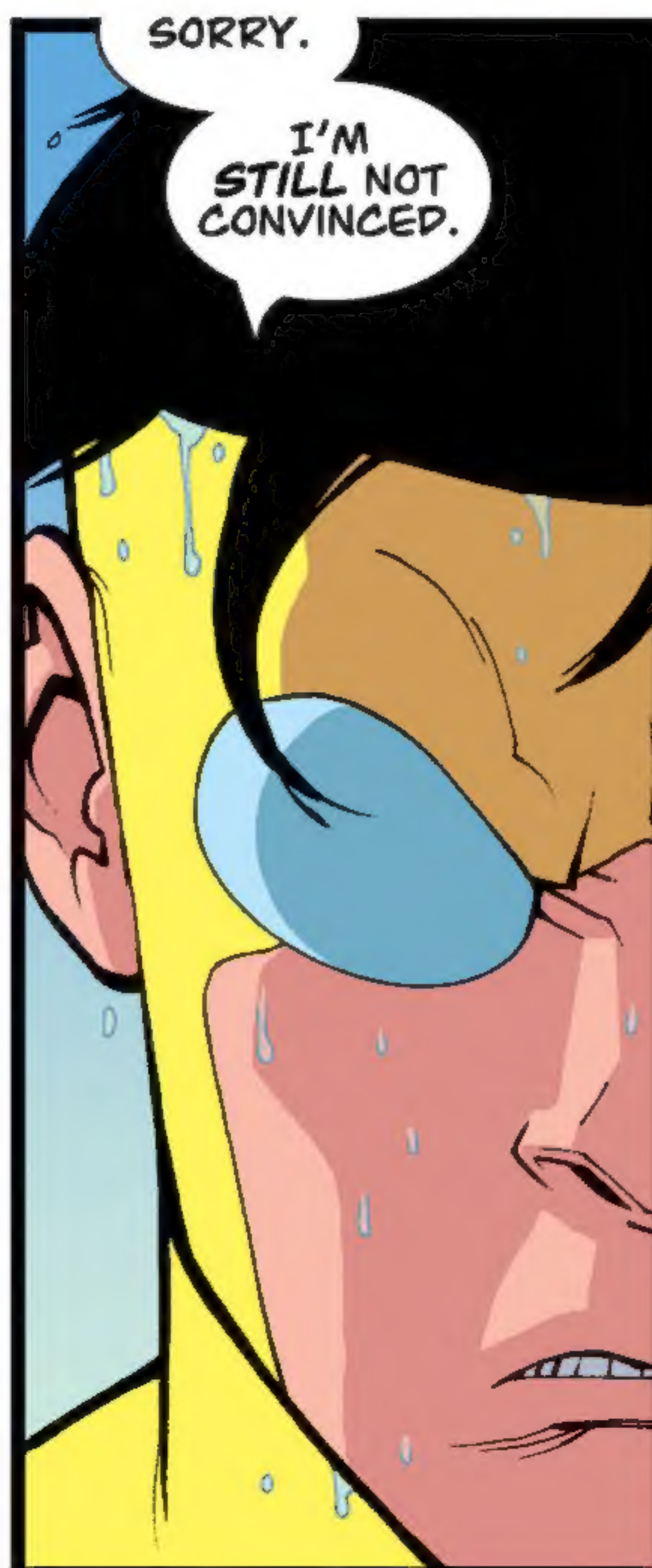
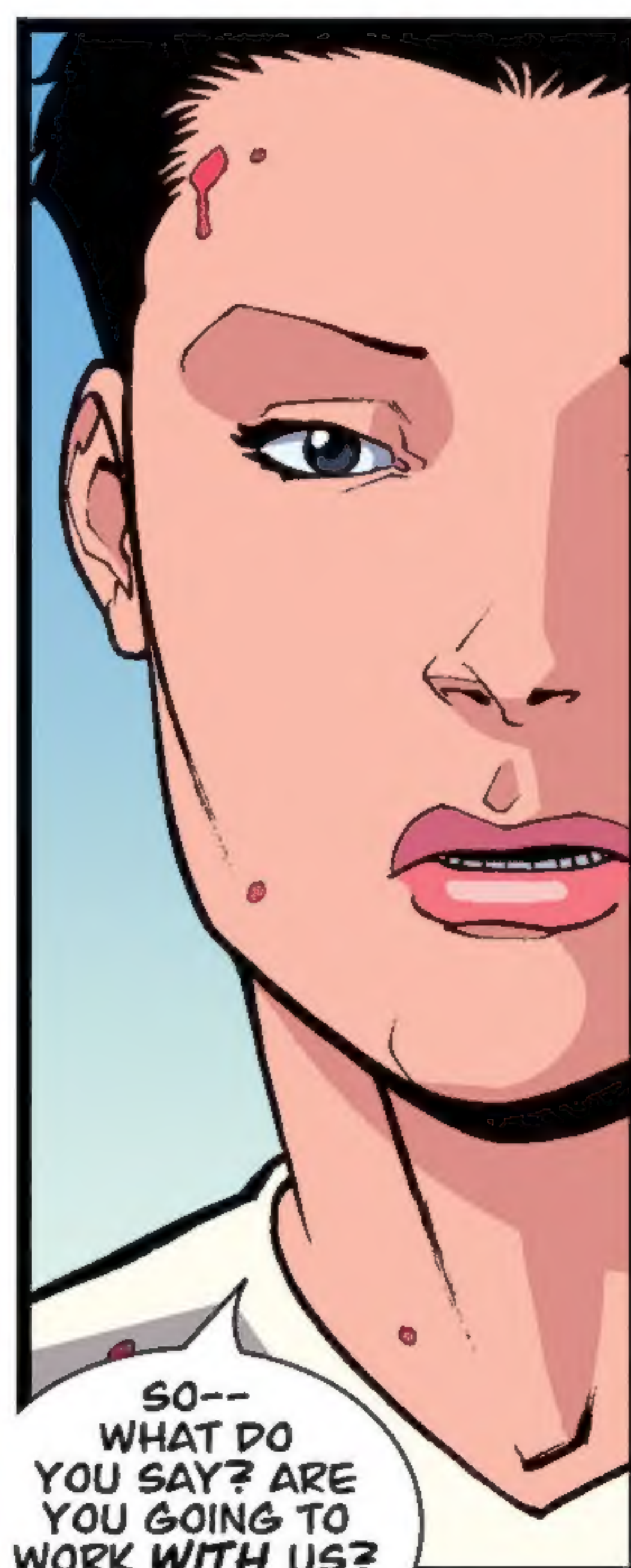
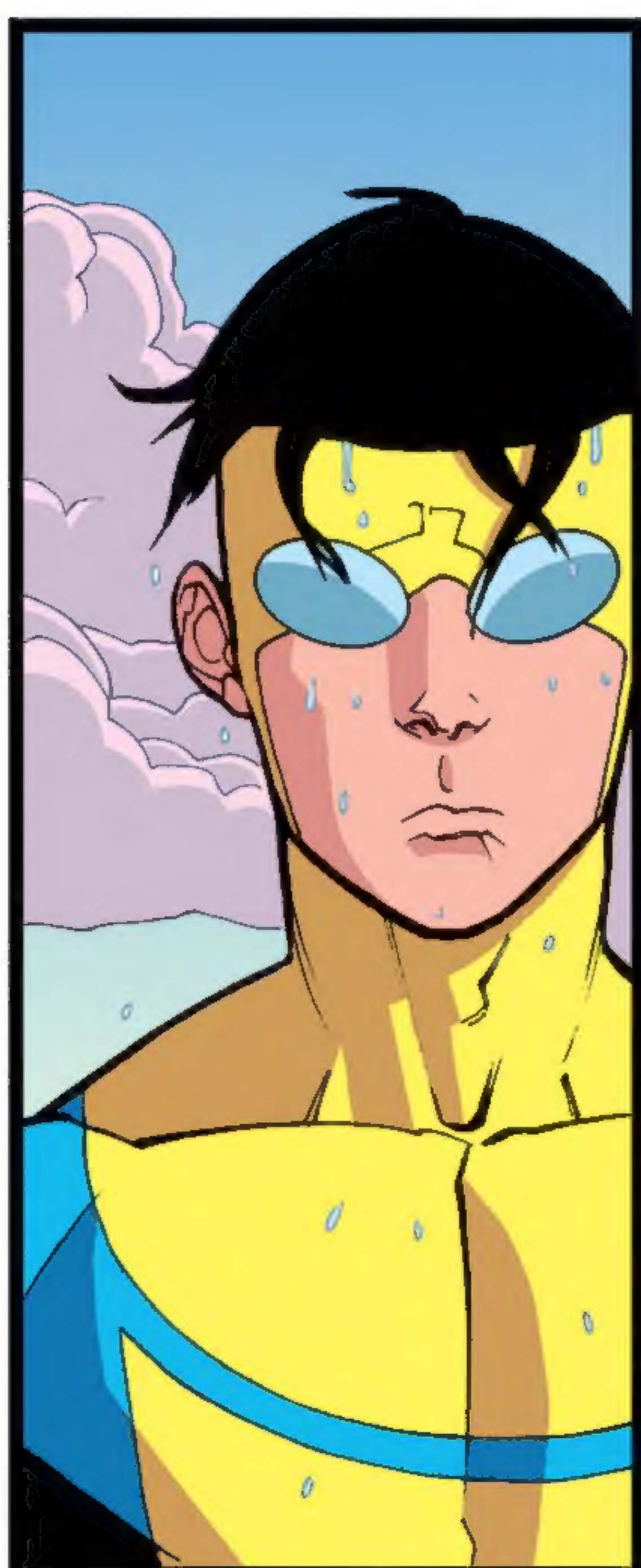
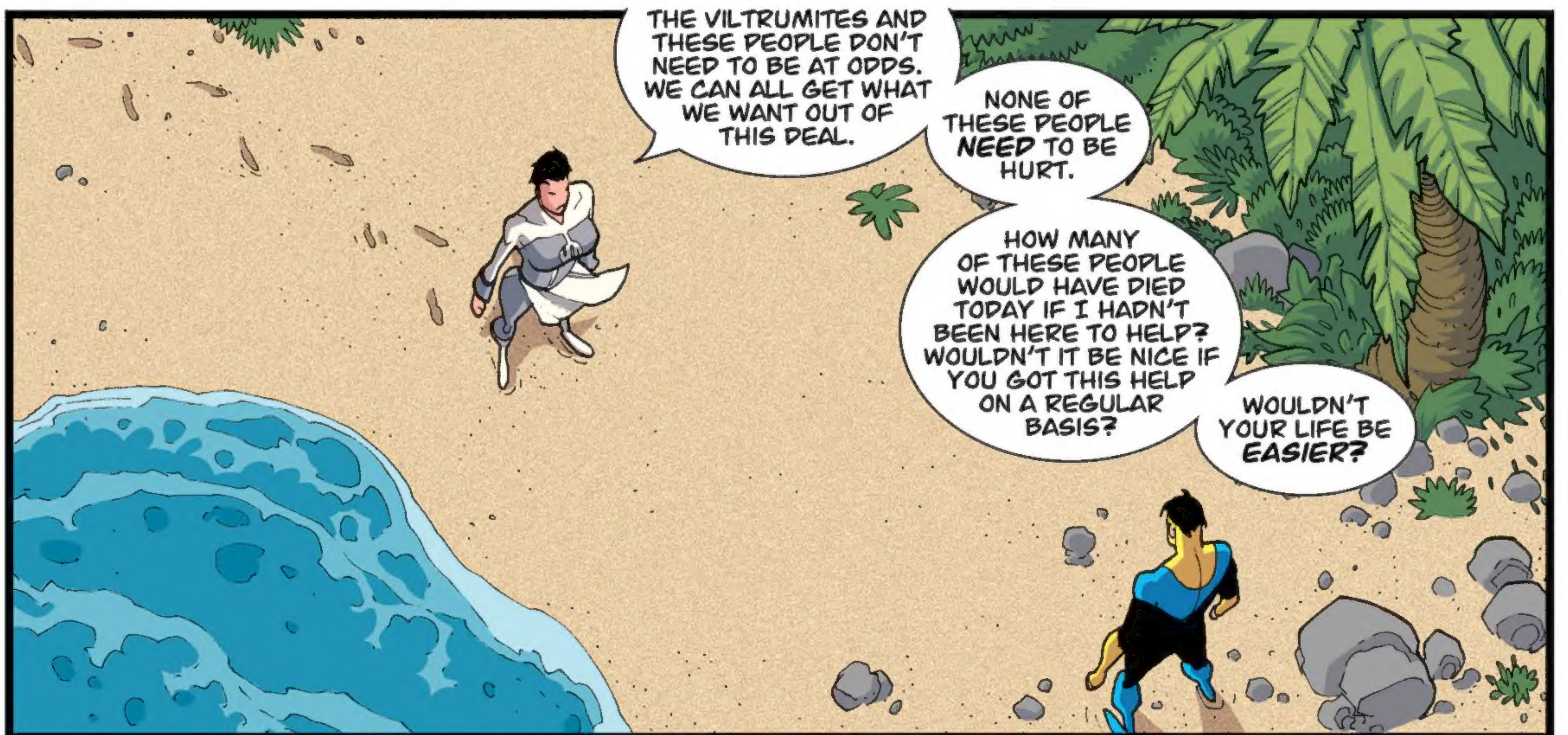
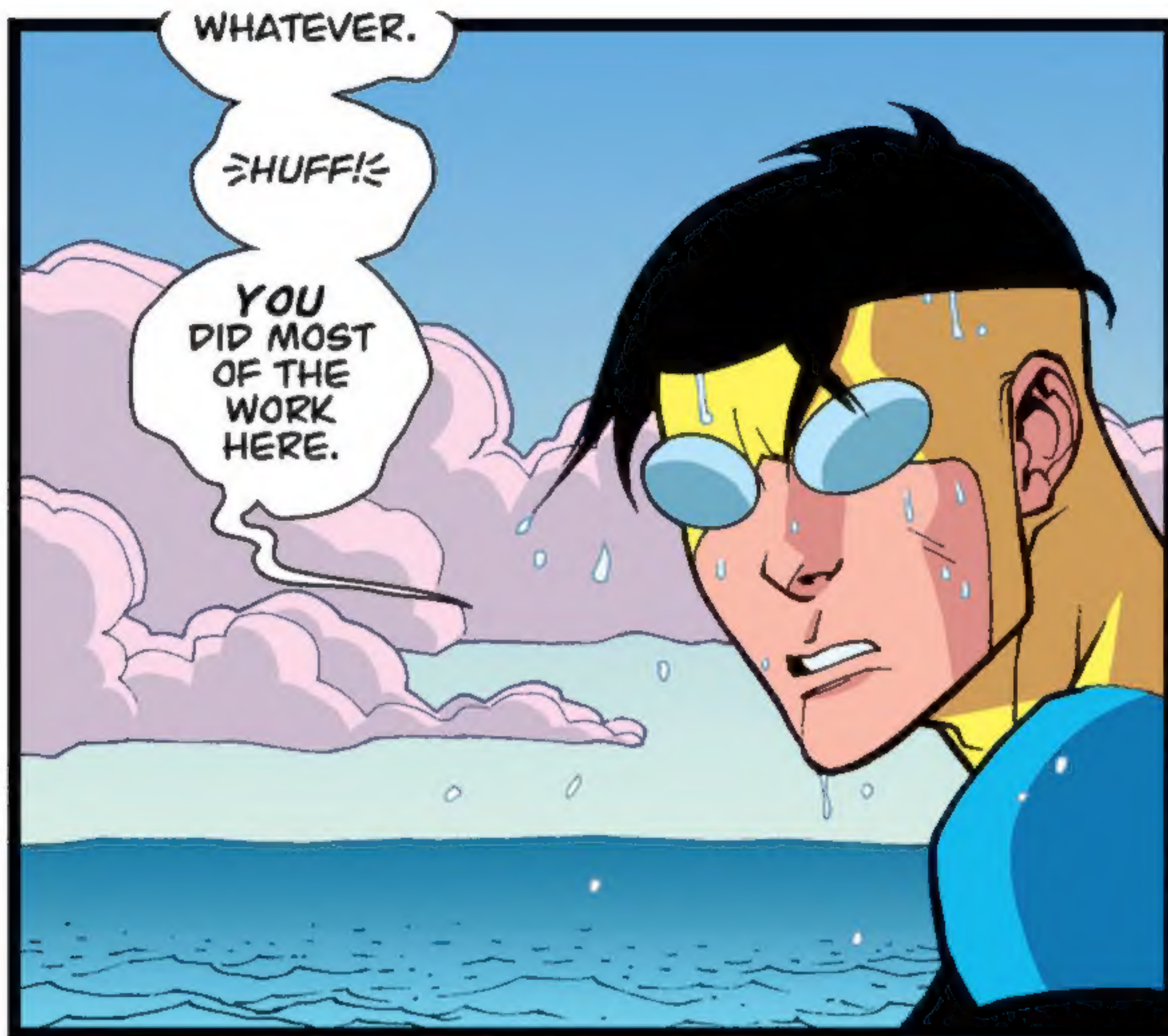


⇒HUFF!⇐

⇒HUFF!⇐

⇒HUFF!⇐

YOU DID
SOME VERY
IMPRESSIVE
WORK
TODAY.





THIS
WASN'T A
NEGOTIATION.

